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Vassiliou hails Bush's efforts

NICOSIA (AP) — President George Vassiliou said Tuesday that the personal involvement of U.S. President George Bush raised hopes for the reunification of the divided Cyprus. In a reply to a Monday message from Mr. Bush, Mr. Vassiliou added that U.S. involvement will be vital in narrowing differences before a Bush-proposed meeting in September. But September was "too early," said a Turkish Cypriot official in Istanbul after consultation with Turkish Premier Mesut Yilmaz. "I don't think necessary preparations can be completed by then," added Kenna Atakol, the foreign and defence minister of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in Turkish-occupied north Cyprus. Mr. Bush announced in Washington last Friday that Turkey and Greece had agreed to meet in the United States in September to try to settle the Cyprus problem. The participation level of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides has yet to be settled. The Turkish side demands equal status for the breakaway state to that of the internationally recognised Cyprus government of Mr. Vassiliou, the Greek Cypriot leader.

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King's interview to be broadcast today

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Television Wednesday broadcasts a special interview with His Majesty King Hussein, during which he will talk about the latest developments in the region. The interview, which will be broadcast on Channel Two, is conducted by Rami Khouri, presenter of the weekly "Encounter" programme.

PLO teams visit Cairo, Amman

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sent a high-level delegation to Cairo Tuesday to consult with Egyptian officials on preparations for a Middle East peace conference, an official PLO source said. A similar delegation will leave for Amman Wednesday, he added. Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), member of the PLO's executive committee, and Hakan Balawi, a leading member of the mainstream Fatah movement, were in the delegation to Egypt.

OIC calls on Iraq to disarm, pay damages

ISTANBUL (AP) — Ministers and officials from 45-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Tuesday urged Iraq to speed up the release of Kuwaiti prisoners, pay Gulf war compensation and eliminate its weapons of mass destruction. The demands were contained in a draft resolution endorsed by the political committee to the 20th Islamic foreign ministers conference. It will be presented for approval at the preliminary meeting of the foreign ministers Thursday. The draft resolution said "the Iraqi government has not fully complied with and fulfilled its obligations in accordance with the U.N. Security Council resolutions." (see related story on page 2)

Moscow warns West over Yugoslavia

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union warned the West Tuesday against military involvement in Yugoslavia, saying it would lead to a conflict embracing all of Europe. A government statement carried by the official TASS news agency said a thin line separated friendly assistance and unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of another nation. "To assist one side in the conflict would mean to come into conflict automatically with others, inside and outside Yugoslavia," it said.

Algerian elections possible in November

ALGER (AP) — Legislative elections postponed in June due to a bloody crackdown on Islamic fundamentalists will be held in October, a prominent opposition leader cited President Chadli Benjedid, as saying Tuesday. The opposition leader, Abdelhak Benbouazza, said the elections would be held in November. He said the state of emergency June 5 to halt violent demonstrations by the Fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Qatari vessel 'totaled' Bahraini waters

UBAI (AP) — A Qatari naval vessel on Aug. 3 violated Bahraini territorial waters and was chased away by coast guard boats, Arab diplomatic sources reported Tuesday. They said the Qatari vessel entered the Bahraini eastern waters without obtaining prior clearance from Bahraini authorities. Bahrain's coast guard units accosted the Qatari vessel and escorted it until it left the Bahraini waters east of Dibal reefs, said the diplomats. In Bahrain, official sources said, the incident was being handled by telephone. But they did not deny it. The incident occurred amid mounting tension between the two central Gulf states over their disputed boundaries.

King says peace process gaining momentum, hopes hurdles will be overcome

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein, saying the Middle East peace effort was gaining momentum, expressed hope Tuesday that an agreement could be worked out on who would attend a peace conference. "I've never seen more determination and I've never seen more of a sense of realisation that this is the last chance and there is a lot of soul-searching going on everywhere," the King said in an interview on ABC Television. Israel has agreed to attend a peace conference but has insisted it should exclude the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Palestinians living in Arab East Jerusalem.

On Sunday, an aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the Palestinians were ready to attend a peace conference and that no obstacle was big enough to prevent this. A PLO spokesman dissociated the organisation from that position on Monday.

King Hussein said he had not yet heard from the Palestinians on this question but made clear they should be allowed to decide on their own who of their number should represent them.

"I believe the general consensus is that only the Palestinians can select their delegation and that this is what essentially will happen," he said.

He noted that Jordan had offered the umbrella of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but said no final decision had been taken. But the King said that once the peace process got under way, barriers that seemed insurmountable at present could be pushed aside.

"Once the process starts, many things that look impossible at this moment may be possible later when people realise what an opportunity there is for all of them and for generations to come," he said.

Following is the King's interview with ABC in a question and answer form:

Question: Israel has restrictions on whom it will accept as Palestinian representatives at the peace conference. The Palestinians say that Israel cannot have a veto power over whom it will send. How is this going to be compromised? Can it be compromised?

Answer: I believe the general consensus is that only the Palestinians can select their delegation and that is what essentially will happen. We are of course greatly concerned about conditions in the occupied territories, but are also concerned about Palestinians in the diaspora. In any event, we have offered the umbrella of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, where a Palestinian delegation is eligible by the fact it is selected by Palestinians, can talk on the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the problem and work with us both within the context of the Jordanian-Israeli dimension of the problem and also the regional one.

Q: The Israelis have been very specific in saying that they will not accept a delegate from East Jerusalem and the thought has been that perhaps the Jordanian delegation to get around with the problem would include somebody who originally came from East Jerusalem. Is that what you are thinking about?

A: It is up to the Palestinians to decide and we are still waiting to hear from them, but of course this is a possibility. After all, one cannot envision every single town and city being represented in the delegation, either that or which affects the occupied territories or Gaza, but Jerusalem obviously is a very, very sensitive subject, and I hope that something will work out once the Palestinians approach us which would be to their satisfaction and the satisfaction of all.

Q: Well, you said that the composition of the delegation is up to the Palestinians, and the question is how they are going to approach you? It was interesting



on Sunday that a representative of the PLO said that there is no obstacle too great to get into the table. Do you think this is going to be overcome and will you be able to compromise this? A: I have never seen more determination and I have never seen more sense of realisation that this is the last chance and there is a lot of soul-searching going on everywhere, and for once the world seems to be moving at such a pace that we are trying to catch up with it, whereas for years we have been urging attention on this chronic case. Q: Let me come back to this East Jerusalem question. The Israelis have been adamant that there will be no Palestinians living in East Jerusalem accepted by them at the conference. If that demand is met, would that be seen as something of a concession to Israel's claim on East Jerusalem?

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510 jobless expatriates arrive from Kuwait

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The first group of Jordanians and Palestinians whose employment contracts were not renewed by their Kuwaiti employers arrived here Tuesday, and reports said that 3,000 such expatriates were scheduled to return home by mid-August.

The group of 340 people landed here aboard two privately chartered Egyptian airliners, and another plane with 170 passengers was expected late Tuesday, according to the Associated Press.

Sources quoted by the AP in Amman said Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in Kuwait had chartered 14 Egyptian planes to fly 3,000 people

to Amman by Aug. 13. It was not immediately known how many of those arriving Tuesday were West Bank residents carrying temporary Jordanian passports.

Expatriate sources said most of the repatriates had been waiting for Kuwaiti banks to lift restrictions on withdrawals from their own accounts or for their employers to pay compensation and service termination benefits.

Noting that Kuwaiti banks have lifted all restrictions on withdrawals and transfers on Aug. 2, an expatriate source told the Jordan Times that the Kuwaiti banks' move, which was announced by the Kuwaiti central bank in June, "Most of the expatriates have closed their accounts and

withdrew all their money," said the source, preferring anonymity. "The lifting of controls also cleared the way for employers to withdraw money to settle their dues to employees," he noted.

"Some of the employers have not settled their dues, and in such cases the expatriates have left behind power of attorney with friends and relatives authorising them to collect the dues on their behalf."

Many of the expected arrivals lived through the seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait which ended in late February "because they had nothing else but their savings in the bank accounts and expectations of severance pay from employers," noted the source, preferring anonymity.

According to the source, "the Kuwaiti government's

policy of hiring non-Kuwaitis only when Kuwaitis could not be found for the required job has affected not only Jordanians or Palestinians but all expatriates" in the emirate.

Official sources said late last month that Jordan had received definite indications that there would not be any mass expulsion of Jordanians or Palestinians from Kuwait.

Official figures indicate that about 270,000 expatriates have returned home since the Gulf crisis erupted with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 20. Officials also estimate that about 170,000 Jordanian passport holders remain in Kuwait.

The expatriate source said thousands of Palestinians holding Syrian, Lebanese and Egyptian documents were also scheduled to fly out of Kuwait this month.

Israel outlines basis for accepting talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The United States has agreed the United States should renew full diplomatic relations with Israel before the start of a Middle East peace conference, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Tuesday.

"The U.S. agreed that the Soviet Union must reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel before the opening session of the conference," Mr. Levy told a parliamentary committee.

Mr. Levy told the foreign affairs and defence committee of the Knesset that the agreement was one of many "understandings" with the United States on the framework for the proposed peace talks, participants said.

They said Levy told them the other points were: — Israel is not obliged to accept the principle of exchanging land for peace. U.N. Resolution 242 enshrining this principle has no one meaning accepted by all;

— The Bush administration will not allow a parallel peace process in the United Nations Security Council;

— The U.N. observer will be silent and will be a personal representative of the U.N. secretary general;

— A European representative will attend the opening session of the conference;

— The conference will have no power to make decisions and will not be used as a forum for appeal or discussion;

— Negotiations will be direct and without preconditions and

aimed at a peace treaty; — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will not be a partner to the process and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will represent the Palestinians.

Mr. Levy said the understandings were the basis for Israel's conditional assent to the peace talks.

"Could we have said no to the convening of such a conference even after we received all that we asked for?" he said.

But Mr. Levy told the committee there was no agreement yet on the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the talks or on Arab East Jerusalem.

Israel sets up new settlements, page 2

Israel endorsed the conference provided Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem and the PLO were barred from the negotiations.

Mr. Levy said Israel stood by its demands. "I repeat that the PLO will not be a partner in the negotiations... if I am told that all the Arabs in the (Israeli-occupied West Bank) are PLO, I will not accept that either," he said.

U.S. State Department officials are due in Israel shortly to work on a written memorandum of understanding between the United States and Israel.

The United States has assured all parties to the talks that any agreements it makes with one will

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Iraq tells U.N. it can make plutonium

VIENNA (Agencies) — Iraq has given U.N. inspectors more evidence of secret experiments to produce plutonium, the material needed to make a nuclear bomb, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Tuesday.

The Vienna-based agency said failure until now to declare the activity constituted a further clear breach by Baghdad of its safeguards agreement with the IAEA under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to which Iraq is a signatory.

Details of the experiments, at a research reactor at the Tuwaitha complex south of Baghdad, were given to a team of U.N. inspectors now in Iraq to hunt for evidence of a nuclear weapons programme, an IAEA statement said.

The team, headed by IAEA expert David Kay, is the fourth nuclear inspection mission to Iraq under the terms of a Gulf war ceasefire compelling Baghdad to declare and destroy all weapons of mass destruction.

The IAEA said the experiments involved the fabrication of natural uranium oxide fuel, its irradiation in a reactor at Tuwaitha and the separation of three grammes of plutonium. The statement said the IAEA was disturbed by the discovery even though the quantity was minute and the ability to separate small amounts of uranium had been admitted by Iraq during an earlier inspection visit.

"Although these activities were on a very limited scale and the reactor used would only have been capable of producing insignificant quantities of plutonium, the interest of Iraq in the separation of plutonium is noteworthy," the IAEA said.

"The failure to declare them to the

IAEA is a timely fashion under Iraq's safeguards agreement constitutes clear non-compliance with that agreement," it said.

Tuwaitha is among facilities that Iraq routinely allows IAEA inspectors to visit under the safeguards agreement, a long-standing accord designed to ensure that nuclear materials declared to the IAEA are not being diverted to military use.

Baghdad has also admitted a secret uranium enrichment project to U.N. inspectors but says all its nuclear programmes are for peaceful purposes, an explanation IAEA Director General Hans Blix has said is not plausible.

The IAEA board of governors first condemned Iraq for non-compliance with the safeguards agreement on July 18 over the uranium enrichment programme.

Famine feared in Iraq even if sanctions lifted, page 2

Tuesday's statement said the latest information would be reported to the board as well as to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the U.N. Security Council.

In the face of Iraq's piecemeal disclosure of its clandestine nuclear and biological weapons programmes, Security Council says it sees no justification for lifting economic sanctions.

U.N. officials said Monday that Iraq has now admitted to secretly conducting germ warfare research for years.

The disclosures were the latest in a series concerning Iraq's initially unreported biological weapons and nuclear programmes. Iraq also has admitted to having four times as many chemical weapons as it first declared.

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Kurdish group said to hold Germans

BONN (R) — Kurdish guerrillas are holding 10 German tourists kidnapped last week but are willing to release them if Turkey calls off a large search operation, a Kurdish group said in Bonn Tuesday. A spokesman for the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan (ERNK) told a news conference that the tourists had been seized by a related Kurdish guerrilla group without the knowledge or approval of their commanders. Spokesman Ali Sapan said the 10 — four women, three men, two young girls and a boy — were safe and their captors hoped to free them soon. "The 10 German tourists will, within a very short time, return healthy to their homes and their loved ones without suffering the slightest harm," he said. "This will happen within a few days unless the Turkish military forces prevent it." Nothing has been heard or seen of the Germans since they were seized by four armed men near a crater lake on Mount Memrut in Bitlis province Thursday night. Turkish newspapers said helicopters and 2,000 troops and police scoured remote mountains for them Tuesday in a thinly-populated area west of Lake Van (see story below).

Baker ready to make seventh Middle East peace shuttle

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State James Baker could make a seventh trip to the Middle East next month to press the case for an Arab-Israeli peace conference, a senior U.S. official said.

"There are no plans formed up to take a trip to the region but if something looked productive in September we would obviously give it the very fullest consideration," said the official, who asked not to be named.

He briefed reporters late Monday en route to Washington from Algiers as Mr. Baker ended his sixth Middle East trip in search of

support for the peace conference. Mr. Baker was due to report on his mission to President George Bush at the White House Tuesday.

After winning Israel's qualified commitment to attend a conference, Mr. Baker visited three of the Maghreb countries — Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

He sought their participation as observers at the conference and asked them to urge Palestinians to take part.

The official declined to say what Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian leaders told Mr. Baker about the position of the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) towards the conference proposal.

"I think there's not necessarily a uniform view on the part of those three countries," said the official.

Mr. Baker, who goes on holiday this week for the rest of the month, believes Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories would be amenable to a compromise that would allow them to join the planned October peace conference.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Monday he was encouraged by the developments over the weekend indicating progress towards convening a Middle East peace conference.

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Arafat appeals to Europe to protect Palestinian rights

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat appealed to European leaders Tuesday to save the Palestinians from "a Zionist conspiracy aimed at Jerusalem."

According to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa, Mr. Arafat sent urgent messages asking Western and Eastern European countries to "protect the legitimate national rights" of the Palestinians.

"The American undertaking in the Middle East take into account only expansionist Israeli interests, to the detriment of the rights of our people," Wafa

quoted the messages as saying. The agency did not say which specific countries the messages were addressed.

Mr. Arafat, Wafa said, called on Europe to "reassert the role it has always effectively played in the elaboration of the principles of international legality and the U.N. resolutions."

He asked Europe "to support the Palestinian people, in these difficult moments" and "to oppose the Zionist conspiracy aimed at Jerusalem," Wafa reported.

The comments came amid conflicting signals about the PLO's position on U.S. plans to hold an international Middle East peace conference in October.

Israel has agreed to take part if the PLO has no role and Palestinians

from Arab East Jerusalem are excluded.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is searching for Palestinians acceptable to Israel who could negotiate as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the conference.

Mr. Baker has given the 12-nation European Commission (EC) observer status in the talks. Important EC countries, particularly France, support a full Palestinian role.

As Mr. Baker visited Tunisia last weekend to sell the conference, a political adviser to Mr. Arafat suggested that the PLO would be ready to cut a deal on Palestinian representation.

"I don't think there will be any

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Turks attack Kurds inside Iraq

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish troops and warplanes attacked Kurdish rebels inside Iraq, a government official said Tuesday.

Guerrillas of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party, fighting to set up an independent Kurdistan in southeastern Turkey, often stage cross-border hit-and-run attacks from bases inside northern Iraq. "The Turkish army is involved in an offensive to pacify the area," the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press.

The government has not yet officially confirmed the operation. "I can neither deny nor confirm it," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungan.

Turkish newspapers, however, reported that Premier Mesut Yilmaz gave a detailed briefing about the operation to the ruling Motherland Party's central board meeting Monday.

It was also not immediately known if the operation was still under way.

Foreign Minister Safa Giray said he knew nothing about the reported operation but thought security forces were probably in pursuit. "I hope the outcome will

be positive," he added.

Mr. Yilmaz vowed on Monday to punish the Kurdish rebels "wherever they may be." "Asked if security forces would cross into northern Iraq to hit them, he said: 'Whatever needs to be done will be done.'"

The newspapers said troops crossed the rugged frontier Monday to hit the mountain hide-outs of the rebels.

Mr. Yilmaz said the rebels who killed the nine soldiers had returned to Iraq after raiding a border post north of the Iraqi border.

"They may not even have the time to repent for what they have done," he was quoted as saying by state radio.

Iraqi Minister of State Mohammad Saeed Al Sabah, in Istanbul for an Islamic conference, told reporters he had no official information on the reports.

The border region on the Iraqi side is under the control of Iraq's own Kurdish rebels.

Gunmen claiming to be Kurdish rebels also kidnapped 10 German tourists in eastern Turkey last week.

Turkish newspapers reported Tuesday that the troops went 19

kilometres into northern Iraq in the operation that began early Monday.

The latest raid marked at least the fourth time that Turkish troops have attacked Kurdish rebel positions inside Iraq since 1983. The last previous acknowledged raid was in 1987 when Turkish warplanes attacked rebel positions following another cross-border attack.

However, Turkish newspapers reported last April that Turkish troops crossed the border to attack guerrilla camps that month. No details of the operation were ever announced.

Turkey and Iraq signed an agreement in 1984 that allowed their armed forces to pursue Kurdish rebels into each other's territory in an area extending 10 kilometres from the border. Iraq signed the agreement when it could not properly garrison troops along the border because of its war with Iran. The pact expired several years ago.

The Istanbul daily Milliyet said Turkey staged air operations against the guerrillas from 6 a.m. (0300 GMT) Monday until 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) and that troops moved in after the air raids.

Kidnappers to send envoy to U.N.

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese kidnappers said Tuesday they were sending a "special envoy" to the United Nations in the next 48 hours in a bid to end the ordeal of Western hostages including two Americans held for more than six years.

In a statement accompanied by a photograph of American Terry Anderson, held longer than any other of the 12 Westerners still captive in Lebanon, Islamic Jihad said the envoy would deliver a very important message to the U.N. secretary general.

A senior Muslim fundamentalist described the statement as a breakthrough and said the kidnappers may use one of the hostages to carry their message to the U.N.

"In line with our belief in the need for action to resolve the issue of our imprisoned holy warriors around the world, especially in occupied Palestine, as well as the issue of those we hold (hostages)... we shall send a special envoy carrying an extremely important message to the U.N. Secretary General, Mr. (Javier Perez) de Cuellar, within the next 48 hours."

The statement did not identify the envoy nor reveal his travel plans or the contents of the message.

sage.

The type-written Arabic statement was delivered to an international news agency in Beirut on the same day the Tehran Times newspaper in Iran reported that an American and a British hostage in Lebanon were likely to be released by the weekend.

The 13-line Arabic statement was accompanied, as authentication, by a black-and-white picture. It showed Mr. Anderson in profile, unlike previous pictures of him in captivity.

Mr. Anderson, 43, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, was clean-shaven, without his eyeglasses and wearing a dark T-shirt in the picture. He was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

The last previous picture of Mr. Anderson was released by Islamic Jihad July 18. It showed him from the chest up sporting a bushy beard and looking straight into the camera.

There was no mention of Mr. Anderson or Thomas Sutherland, another American hostage held by the group, in Tuesday's statement.

Mr. Sutherland, 60, dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, was kidnapped June 9, 1985.

It was the first time the kidnappers have declared their intention to address the United Nations on the hostages issue.

Last year, another pro-Iranian group used a hostage release to send a message to the United States. The Organisation of Islamic Dawn released American hostage Frank Herbert Reed on April 30, 1990 and said he was carrying a message to the White House. Contents of the message were never disclosed.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, a spokesman for Mr. Perez de Cuellar, Fred Eckhard, said he had no immediate comment.

The statement said: "The issue of the detainees (hostages) and the prisoners in the world has developed into a deadlock worrying the international power centres over many years after many heads and policies rolled."

It said the hostage issue "has nowadays become a source of manipulation in America's and Israel's opportunistic policies at the expense of those claiming responsibility for them."

The statement called for greater "seriousness and sense of responsibility" in tackling the hostage issue lest it should become "an unbreakable deadlock."

Israel sets up new settlements

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel established a new settlement in the occupied West Bank Monday, three days after Secretary of State James Baker left with Israel's agreement to attend a Middle East peace conference, Israel Television said.

The left-wing Civil Rights Movement sharply criticised the move, calling the settlement "the Israeli government's negative answer to the American peace initiative. The government is playing a double game with a double-edged tongue — with its mouth it says yes and with its arm it says no."

"The point is the timing and the place," said party spokesman Moshe Horowitz.

Some fifteen Jewish families moved Sunday into what was formerly an army outpost called Esikolot, south of the West Bank City of Hebron, the television said.

Dan Naveh, spokesman for Defence Minister Moshe Arens, said the government had approved turning the army post into a civilian settlement in 1983 and recently decided to allow up to 15 families to move in.

The United States has repeatedly appealed to Israel to halt construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories as a gesture of peace to the Arab states.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told Mr. Baker Thursday Israel was willing to attend a Middle East peace conference once Israel's conditions on Palestinian representation are met.

The peace conference is to be based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 which call on Israel to give up land occupied in the 1967 war in exchange for secure borders.

Mr. Shamir has said Israel would not cede any land for peace.

Also Monday, the defence ministry gave Hebron settlers a permit to set up nine caravans at an army post in the city, Israel Radio said.

The army post, set up in 1983 on the site of Hebron bus station after a Jew was stabbed in the city, was "the only alternative place we found suitable to let them stay," Mr. Naveh said.

Aaron Domb, one of the leaders of Jewish settlers in Hebron, said he hoped that the settlers would be allowed to build at the army outpost.

Asked whether Israel did not worry about negative reaction from Arab states with which it hoped to negotiate, Mr. Naveh said: "There is no change in Israeli policy on this issue. There is no change in the Israeli policy of settlement."

Some 100,000 Jews now live in

heavily-fortified enclaves among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Shamir's government is spending millions of dollars on roads to enable Jewish settlers to bypass the towns, villages and refugee camps of Palestinians who launched their uprising against Israel rule more than three and a half years ago.

The non-partisan Israeli Peace Now movement accused the government of making it more difficult for Palestinians, who have called for a freeze in settlement activity, to agree to take part in the proposed peace conference.

The question of who will represent Palestinians at the conference remains the main stumbling block.

"All settlement activity now is meant to make it difficult for the Palestinians to give a positive answer to the United States and strengthen right-wing extremists," Peace Now said in a statement released to Reuters.

"Such activities are done against the will of most of Israeli people who want the peace conference," it added, referring to opinion polls that show most Israelis favour a conference.

The West Bank settlement was inaugurated as Israel Television reported that two U.S. State Department officials would arrive Tuesday to discuss details of a

proposed peace conference.

The United States, Israel's main ally, has repeatedly said that Jewish settlement in the occupied territories is a major obstacle to peace. Mr. Baker was greeted by new settlements on several visits to Israel during his recent peace missions.

Israeli left-wingers and peace activists accused Prime Minister Shamir of risking chances of the first Arab-Israeli conference in the Jewish state's 43-year-old existence.

"If the road to the negotiating table is blocked, it is the Israeli government's fault," said Yossi Sarid of the Citizens' Rights Movement.

"The new settlement is in practice the negative answer to the peace initiative of the U.S. administration. Officially, the reply is 'yes', but in practice in the occupied territories the answer is 'no'. This is typical double language of the Israeli government," he told Reuters.

Mr. Baker, who has lined up the support of Arab states for a peace conference with Israel in October, wound up a marathon Middle East tour Monday saying he was very hopeful of an "outbreak of peace" in the region.

While Mr. Shamir has given a qualified "yes" to Mr. Baker's proposals for a U.S.-Soviet sponsored conference he has sworn never to leave Arab lands.

Freij pledges 'credible' delegation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, met with top White House officials Monday and said afterwards that his fellow Palestinians will send a "credible" delegation to the Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Freij, longtime mayor of the West Bank town known as the birthplace of Christ, said: "There will be a peace conference and the Palestinians will be in the room to negotiate."

Mr. Freij met for 35 minutes with Brent Scowcroft, the President George Bush's national security adviser, and Chief of Staff John Sununu. Mr. Freij said he urged the White House officials to use "all the vigor and influence they have" to bring the peace conference about.

"I am convinced that they are determined," he told reporters afterwards.

He said Israel should have no say in who the Palestinians send to the table. But Mr. Freij said flatly, "they will be a credible Palestinian delegation" at the peace conference.

"The Israelis are very difficult. They have been saying they will not give one inch of land and they will not withdraw from here or there," he said. But he added that in politics, "never" is never.

"There is hope, but to have peace you have to have two partners. The Arab partner, the Arab side, the Palestinian side, is ready to make peace with Israel," said Mr. Freij, who said he would like to see "a Middle East common market" uniting the Arab states and Israel in commerce.

Israel has refused to talk with Palestinians who belong to the Palestine Liberation Organisation or are from Arab East Jerusalem.

Jordanians hope for easing of naval siege in Red Sea

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials and businessmen are hopeful that the crippling "interjections" of vessels headed for Aqaba would be eased soon, particularly after the issue was repeatedly raised with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his recent Middle East peace shuttles.

Mr. Baker, who was in Amman Friday and Saturday and held talks with Prime Minister Taher Masi shortly before his departure early Saturday, "agreed to study the matter carefully and promised to do what the State Department could to ease the situation," said an informed source.

"Presumably, the issue will be referred to the Pentagon by the State Department for necessary action," added the source.

Hundreds of vessels have been turned away from Aqaba since August last year when an international trade embargo was imposed on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait and an American-led naval task force started inspecting ships heading for the Red Sea port — once the major transit facility for Iraq-bound goods.

In most cases, Jordan-bound cargo had to be unloaded at third country ports and reshipped to Aqaba after a lengthy process involving fresh or additional documents to prove that the goods were indeed intended for consumption in Jordan.

In turn, industrial production in Jordan was adversely affected and the additional shipping costs were, and still are, reflected in consumer prices.

"It was bad enough during the Gulf crisis" — which developed into a devastating war in January leading to the end of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in February — but "now the situation has

turned worse with new regulations for the enforcement of the blockade," said the shipping source.

One of the practices adopted by most regular shipping lines as standard procedure now is to designate Aqaba as the last port of discharge, thus making it easier for on-board inspection of cargo and shipping documents.

Ships which cannot adopt this practice have to ensure that all Aqaba-bound cargo is placed aboard in a manner which facilitates easy access for random checking by the enforcers.

"These practices have largely alleviated the problem until a new regulation was enforced," said the shipping source, speaking on condition of anonymity. The enforcers — mostly American officers aboard frigates — now refuse Aqaba-bound cargo if the consignee's name includes the terms "and Sons" and "Partners" or "Trading Agencies."

Businessmen theorised that the new enforcement regulations appear to have stemmed from a belief that companies with such names could include non-Jordanians — Iraqis to be precise — and the shipments could be sent to Iraq from Aqaba.

In addition, the naval inspectors are also insisting that the shipping documents include the full street address of the consignee, said the shipping source.

"It is a well-known fact that for donkey-years we do not have street addresses" for postal purposes, said another shipping official. "Everyone has a post box address, but this is not accepted by the inspectors in the Red Sea," he said.

The Shipping Agents Association of Jordan has notified all concerned parties — banks, the chambers of commerce and the chambers of industry, as well as clearing agents — to ensure that

importers include street addresses in their letters of credit to the shipping companies to include the details.

The latest vessel to be over the new measures is Singapore-registered, Ko Jaya, which was stopped proceeding to Aqaba, mouth of the Red Sea last week. After waiting for the vessel set sail and headed for Djibouti, where it discharged at least 35 ships Far Eastern foodstuff for Jordanian importers, a shipping official said.

"We are trying to get addresses of all consignees, this information could be to the captain of Ko Jaya before the cargo is discharged at Djibouti," he said. "If with the information, only option is to transfer Djibouti," he said.

In March this year, the Shipping Agents Association of Jordan drew up a set of guidelines, which was supposed to have been accepted by the U.S. Department, which directs the naval task force in the Red Sea.

But, these guidelines seem to be "unacceptable" to American ships and are continuing trouble to businessmen, who claim that they "suffered losses of thousands of dollars in freight cost and interest on the Gulf crisis."

"We have no choice but to reflect the current situation, wholesale and retail," he noted. "Every Jordanian shipper is paying the price of the naval blockade."

"We hope that the positive action from the Jordan side so that the problems faced by the importers as a whole is resolved soon," he added.

Iraq urges OIC to fight sanctions

ISTANBUL (R) — Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs has urged Muslim countries to fight against U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad over last year's invasion of Kuwait.

Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf, in a speech at an Islamic conference in Istanbul Monday attacked countries that defeated two Iraqi attempts to include an agenda item calling for an end to sanctions.

"Iraq looks to the Islamic umma through this conference to look into the sufferings of the Iraqi people and the disaster they are living through," he told the 45-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"Muslim states should not keep silent towards such oppression. We are confident that our voice will be met with a response," he added.

Mr. Sahaf lashed out at countries which criticised Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last Aug. 2, saying speeches by some delegates were full of lies.

"Regrettably, we listened to speeches by some delegations that were full of mistakes and attacks, and deliberately adopting policies of escalation," he said.

Earlier Monday, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah attacked Iraq, saying its failure to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions was proof of its "aggressive intentions."

Several ministers have spoken out against Baghdad during the five-day conference, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which fought among U.S.-led allies

against Iraq in the Gulf war. Mr. Sahaf said shortages resulting from the blockade had led to thousands of deaths and accused the United States of blocking moves to ease the sanctions.

Referring to the U.S.-led operation to protect Kurds in northern Iraq after the Gulf war ended, Mr. Sahaf said Washington and its allies intervened "to incite ethnic and sectarian strife."

He also attacked what he called U.N. duality in dealing with Middle East issues.

"Why shouldn't all or some of these measures be imposed against the entity usurping the rights of the Palestinian people," he said, referring to Israel.

"Such a duality ... will only lead the region and the world to more setbacks and escalation of tension," he added.

He said his country had fully cooperated with all U.N. teams sent to Baghdad to inspect its nuclear capabilities.

Mr. Sahaf also attacked the United Nations' insistence on the total elimination of its nuclear capability.

"This biased (U.N.) resolution makes it mandatory upon Iraq to destroy ... all that remains in its possession of unconventional weapons and nuclear material which are already subject to the international atomic energy agency safeguards systems," he said.

Mr. Sahaf said Baghdad submitted its nuclear, chemical and missile capabilities to the inspection of six different teams and "except for the complications which arose during the visit of the second inspection team as a result of their insistence to arrive during

the (Islamic holiday of) 'Eid Al Adha.' They had access to everything they wanted to see, he said.

The Iraqi official also accused the United States and its Gulf war allies of first destroying his country and now trying to starve its people by blocking the lifting of sanctions.

"But our people, which stands united around its victorious leader, President Saddam Hussein, will accept no foreign hegemony," he said.

In Baghdad, the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah criticised the OIC, saying it "contradicts itself by keeping silent on the mass crime perpetrated against Iraq."

It said in an editorial: "The silence of the foreign ministers in Istanbul on the blockade imposed on Iraq reveals OIC agreement with imperialism and Zionism policy against Iraq, the region and Islamic countries and peoples."

The blockade, "is a cruel measure implemented by the U.S., Zionism and their puppets to inflict mass punishment against a whole people," it added.

No change in sanctions

The Security Council met privately Monday for a periodic review of an April Gulf war ceasefire resolution and concluded there were no grounds for any changes in U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

British Representative Sir David Hannay told reporters: "The vast majority of the council have taken the view that there is no justification for any changes in the sanctions regime."

He and other council members also said they were told that U.N. nuclear inspectors had been informed that Iraq had produced three grammes of plutonium, a potential weapons-usable material.

The Iraqis, already known to have three different programmes for enriching uranium, an essential step in making nuclear weapons, had now admitted separating out plutonium from irradiated nuclear fuel rods, in breach of their undertakings under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"This is another in a long, long series of failings, cheating by the government of Iraq," Mr. Hannay said, referring to what some

council members see as Baghdad's repeated failure to admit the full extent of its nuclear programme and its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

The council did not discuss a resolution, still being negotiated among the five permanent members — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France — to allow Iraq to sell some of its embargoed oil, with purchasers paying the full price into a U.N. escrow account.

Part of the proceeds would be used to buy foodstuffs, medicine and other civilian supplies and the rest drawn on to meet Baghdad's financial obligations under various council resolutions.

These include paying war reparations, financing the U.N.-supervised destruction of Iraq's nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapons potential and meeting half the costs of a U.N. commission demarcating the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Another draft resolution being discussed among the five permanent members of the council would condemn Iraq for concealing information about its weapons programmes, demand full disclosure and strengthen the hand of U.N. inspection teams.

U.N. lists firms

United Nations inspectors in Iraq have compiled a list of companies they believe supplied Baghdad with the means to make chemical weapons, a German radio station reported Tuesday.

Citing U.N. sources in New York, Hamburg-based NDR Radio said the list contained the names of companies from 13 countries — with German firms topping the list.

It said the U.N. would not publish the list but pass it to countries on request to help local investigations.

A spokesman for the German state prosecutor's office in Darmstadt, near Frankfurt, said German prosecutors had not been informed of the list. The office is coordinating probes into alleged German exports for the Iraqi chemical arms programme.

"It is a matter for the federal government to contact the United Nations through diplomatic channels," spokesman Georg Nauth said.

CONDOLANCES

The administration and staff of the General Jordanian Automobile Trading Co. (Honda cars dealership) wish to extend their sincere condolences and sympathy to the family and colleagues of the late

MR. S. HONDA

the founder of the Honda Company, who passed away in Japan on Monday the 5th of August 1991.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

YESTERDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES:	
Amman 30, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 58 per cent. Aqaba 26 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Hanna Mansour	748364
Dr. Mohammed Al Awd	741391
Dr. Jamal Abu Baker	746426
Dr. Nart Ali	814385
Firas Pharmacy	661512
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nasrallah pharmacy	626472
Al Salem pharmacy	636750
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamekani pharmacy	637660
JERUSALEM:	
Dr. Mohammed Youssef	(—)
Al Shura'a pharmacy	(275825)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Akram Haddad	(—)
Khalifa pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	643402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	668800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Amman Municipality	661646
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdell Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	690100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
HOSPITALS	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	06-53200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
16:00	Damascus (RJ)
16:30	Jeddah (RJ)
16:45	Larnaca (RJ)
17:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:30	Madrid (RJ)
18:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30	Cairo (RJ)
18:45	Damascus (RJ)
19:15	London, Brussels (RJ)
19:30	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
20:00	Rome (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Madrid (RJ)
12:00	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:45	Istanbul (RJ)
13:00	Azores, New York (RJ)
13:15	London (RJ)
13:30	Cairo (RJ)
13:45	Damascus (RJ)
14:00	Colombo (RJ)
14:15	New Delhi (RJ)
14:30	Riyadh (RJ)
14:45	Dhahran (RJ)
15:00	Dubai (RJ)
15:15	Dubai (RJ)
15:30	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
13:00	Sanaa (YV)
13:20	Cairo (MS)
13:40	Banghazi (LN)
14:00	Tripoli, Damascus (PK)
14:20	Paris (AF)
MARKET PRICES	
Uppehous price in Jordan	
Apple	1.50
Apricots	1.50
Bananas	1.50
Beans	1.50
Cabbage	1.50
Carrot	1.50
Cauliflower	1.50
Corn	1.50
Cucumber (large)	1.50
Cucumbers (small)	1.50
Eggplant	1.50
Garlic	1.50
Grapes	1.50
Greenpeas	1.50
Lemon (yellow)	1.50
Lemon (green)	1.50
Marrow (large)	1.50
Marrow (small)	1.50
Onion	1.50
Onion (dry)	1.50
Orange	1.50
Pepper	1.50
Pepper (hot)	1.50
Pepper (sweet)	1.50
Potato	1.50
Sage	1.50
Swet onion	1.50
Tomato	1.50
Watermelon	1.50

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Variety programme
18:15	News in French
18:30	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	A Kind of Living
21:00	Silk Route of the Sea
22:00	News in English
22:30	La Millaire
PRAYER TIMES	
04:23	Fajr
05:49	(Sunrise) Duha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:22	Asr
19:33	Maghreb
21:06	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637446	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
TERRASIA Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assuan International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823624, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	19/32
Aqaba	24/38
Desert	21/36
Jordan Valley	25/38

Arab children's congress starts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor today inaugurates this year's children's congress in which participants from Jordan and five other Arab countries will take part.

The congress, sponsored by the Nour Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), was initiated in 1980 after the Amman Arab summit conference. It is aimed at bringing together talented children from around the Arab World.

The week-long congress includes a seminar on the protection of the environment and visits by children to various cultural and touristic sites in the Kingdom.

The children's congress aims at promoting interaction of Arab cultural background through discussions and shared experiences.

During their stay in Jordan, Arab children are encouraged to appreciate more fully the contemporary challenges and the ancient bonds of culture and understanding that are common to all Arab people.

The NHF normally organised a series of activities for the young visitors with their supervisors, including visits to Jordanian households.

Apart from Jordan, the participating children this year came from Algeria, Sudan, Iraq, Palestine and Tunisia.

State universities to accept 10,375 students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The four Jordanian government-controlled universities will this year accept 10,375 undergraduate students and 2,479 post-graduate students in the coming 1991-92 academic year, according to an announcement here Monday evening by the Council of Higher Education chaired by Minister of Higher Education Mohammad Al Hammouri.

Accordingly, the University of Jordan will admit 3,920 undergraduate students, Yarmouk University 3,750, Muta 1,420 and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) 965.

The minister said in his announcement that all those to be accepted in the universities should have an average grade, in their tawjihi results, of 65 per cent and above. He said that those with 60 per cent and above can be accepted by the private universities.

The minister said that nearly 70 per cent of secondary school graduates are being accepted in the four universities. He also said that those accepted in the scientific faculties have passed the

tawjihi examination with an average grade of not less than 80 per cent.

Dr. Hammouri said that due to the Gulf crisis and the return to Jordan of thousands of expatriates, the four universities had to accept 700 expatriate students.

The minister said that the private universities in Jordan as well as the community colleges can admit the majority of the remaining students whose average grades permit them to enrol, in accordance with the council's regulations.

The council, according to Dr. Hammouri, has now decided to introduce new specialisations in the four universities to meet the needs of the local labour market. It also endorsed a set of principles to govern the functioning of Jordanian community colleges in the coming academic year.

The council has approved the appointment of Dr. Bassam Abu Ghazaleh as president of the newly established Applied Science University and gave its consent to the establishment of a "technology university college" in Jordan.



Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema production Director General Jawad Maraga Tuesday signs technical and programme cooperation agreement with Sudanese National Centre for Population Communication, Development Information and Technical Production Director General Hassan Saaduddin (Petra photo)

Jordan, Sudan sign cooperation agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema Production and the Sudanese Information Ministry Tuesday signed two technical agreements on technical and programme cooperation.

Under the first agreement, the company will supply the Sudanese television with its television production and will train three Sudanese television person-

nel every year. The company will also produce episodes of the Sudanese series on Islamic art and archaeology, as well as episodes on Sudan's history.

Under the second agreement, concluded with the Sudanese National Centre for Population Communication, Development Information and Technical Production, the company will provide technical and production ex-

pertise for the centre and will cooperate with it in producing technical and art programmes. It will also train technical cadres from the centre.

The agreement was signed for the company by its Director General Jawad Maraga, while for the Sudanese Information Ministry it was signed by Hassan Saaduddin, director general of the centre.

Arab countries meet in Tunis to discuss plight of Palestinians

TUNIS (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in a week-long Arab countries' meeting in Tunis that tackles the affairs of Palestinian refugees.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, an advisor at the prime minister's office, accompanied by two senior officials from the Foreign Ministry's Department for Palestinian Affairs, is attending the meetings along with delegates from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and the Arab League's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

The meeting is reviewing the implementation of previous deci-

sions taken by Arab countries concerning the Palestine question. Israel's Judaisation programme in the occupied Arab territories, social and economic conditions of Palestinians under Israeli rule, Jewish immigration in Palestine and Israel's plans to steal water from Arab countries, according to conference sources.

Addressing the opening session was Dr. Mohammad Al Farra, the Arab League assistant secretary general, who said that the world should create an opportune climate to help the American peace initiative succeed.

"The U.N. Security Council should issue a resolution calling for an end to Israel's repressive measures and an immediate halt to Israel's settlement programmes in the occupied Arab lands," Dr. Farra said.

Referring to the situation in the Israeli-held Arab lands, Dr. Farra said the living conditions of Palestinians under Israeli rule were deteriorating and the U.N. should take immediate action to stop the Palestinian people's sufferings, imprisonment, starvation and other forms of Israeli repression.

Chamber of Industry office opens in Sahab

Government keen on promoting the industrial sector — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb Tuesday stressed the government's keenness on promoting the industrial sector so that it can help stimulate the national economy.

In an address at the official inauguration of an office for the Amman Chamber of Industry in Sahab industrial city, the minister referred to a set of measures taken by the Ministry of Industry and said they aimed at overcoming the current challenges facing the national economy.

The government, he said, is about to issue a set of laws designed to give further encouragement to investments, boost exports and open new markets abroad.

Mr. Abul Ragheb lauded the efforts of the Amman Chamber

of Industry and said that the new office in the industrial city of Sahab was one of the main tools that would contribute towards boosting the industrial and economic organisations' endeavours in Jordan.

Jordan's industrial products have proved their competitiveness in the foreign markets and the ministry's support in organising fairs for such products are backing the industrial sector helping it achieve its goals, the minister said.

Mr. Abul Ragheb also announced that the government had allocated funds to support Jordan's exports to foreign markets.

The chamber's president, Khalidoun Abu Hassan, said that the new office was designed as a

step to increase facilities and services to the Jordanian industrialists and to save them effort and time in conducting procedures involved in the industrial sector.

Mr. Abu Hassan announced that the chamber planned to open similar offices in other industrial complexes to serve the same purpose.

"The chamber has created a special unit to promote exports and to explore foreign markets and in 1992 a special ceremony will be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein to honour those industrialists excelling in exports," Mr. Abu Hassan said.

The ceremony was attended by the chamber's board members and leading Jordanian industrialists and officials.

Indian import from Jordan to reach \$200m this year

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite a crunch in foreign exchange, India's imports from Jordan are expected to be in the range of \$190 million to \$200 million during 1991. New Delhi has set a target of \$40 million to \$50 million of exports to the Kingdom this year.

India's imports of Jordanian products — phosphates, potash and related fertilizers — rose to a record \$193 million during 1990 while the Kingdom's imports from India totalled \$33 million for the year.

Faced with dwindling foreign exchange reserves as a result of the Gulf crisis, the new Indian government, which took power last month, has adopted a policy of short-term import agreements subject to foreign currency availability.

However, although the practice is also applicable to imports from Jordan, the volume of India's purchases of Jordanian products will be close to the same figure of last year, according to Mghinder Singh Suman, first secretary at the Indian embassy here.

"Phosphates and potash are necessary items for India and we cannot cut down on their imports," Mr. Suman told the Jor-

dan Times. India purchased close to 1.5 million tonnes of rock phosphates from Jordan in 1990, and the same level is expected this year.

Boosting agricultural production is one of the priorities of the Indian government and sufficient supply of fertilizers is key to achieving this objective, Mr. Suman noted.

Ahmad Tarawneh, an executive at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), confirmed that India's imports of rock phosphates were "near normal" for so far this year.

"We have no indications that there will be any reduction in India's imports of phosphates," he told the Jordan Times.

India is the biggest purchaser of Jordanian phosphates and potash. Concerted Indian efforts over the years have managed to boost Indian exports to Jordan to the \$33 million registered last year, compared with \$4 million in 1985.

Jordan and India this week signed an agreement under which the Kingdom will buy 100,000 tonnes of Indian wheat for \$11.8 million. Deliveries will be made before November, and fresh deals could be explored by October, said B. Parra, resident representative of India's Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation

(MMTC), an Indian government agency.

"We have set a goal for MMTC exports to Jordan of \$40 million for this year," Mr. Parra told the Jordan Times. The amount excludes direct private sector deals which do not fall under MMTC realm, but the volume of such imports could be around \$7 million to \$10 million.

In addition to wheat, present Indian exports channelled through MMTC to Jordan include meat, soya beans and traditional items such as spices and a "few engineering items" bought by the JPMC and the Arab Potash Company, Mr. Parra said.

Bulk medicine is an item that India is keen to export to Jordan, he said. "We are exporting medicine to Europe in large quantities and we don't see why we could not market medicine in Jordan," he added.

One of the main problems cited by Jordanian businessmen interested in imports from India is the limited number of vessels linking Indian ports with Aqaba. "Short-term import deals are almost impossible with India simply because we cannot find vessels with timings suitable to meet our delivery requirements," said an importer, who has turned to Europe to import Indian products.

Fate of UNESCO employees still unknown

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) employees based in Jordan are deeply concerned and apprehensive over their future three weeks after being told that their offices will be moved back to Beirut now that the situation in Lebanon has started to settle.

Talking to the Jordan Times, the employees said that nothing had been done to alleviate their anxieties regarding their jobs.

"We have not been approached yet with renewed contracts," said one employee who has been working with UNESCO since its offices were moved to Jordan six years ago.

The employees feel that they may never find a job considering the difficult economic situation the country is facing.

"Where will I find work at this time," said an employee who explained that he was in dire need of his monthly income to keep his family.

"There is no chance for me to go to Beirut where the office is moved towards the end of the year. Besides, I was not even informed about getting a job with UNESCO if I move to Beirut."

An official at UNESCO who preferred anonymity said that when the move was made from Beirut to Amman many employees from the Beirut office came to work in Amman's office. "Although we knew when we moved then that the move to Amman was only temporary and only due to the war situation in Beirut, many of our employees who opted to move to Amman were allowed to do so," he said.

The decision taken by UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor on July 6, stating that the regional office for UNESCO in Beirut should be in full operation by April

1992, has started an avalanche of questions being posed by employees of other United Nations offices who feel that they may be losing their jobs too as their offices were also moved to Amman on a temporary basis.

An employee at United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who declined to mention her name, said that when she heard of the decision of moving UNESCO offices back to Beirut she started to ask key personnel at UNICEF whether UNICEF offices will also move back to Beirut because they were moved out of Beirut for the same security reasons as UNESCO. "I was assured that no such move will be made by UNICEF," she said.

UNICEF Regional Representative Nigel Fischer said that UNICEF's move to Amman was permanent. "There have been no plans nor discussions about moving the UNICEF offices from Amman," Mr. Fischer said.

"A decision by one United Nations-related office does not affect another as each office is independent."

One United Nations office has different plans. United Nations Economic and Social Committee of Western Asia (ESCWA), which had its regional office in Baghdad, moved its staff to Amman at the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in August 1990.

According to informed sources, the ESCWA staff will be moving out of Amman.

ESCWA's main headquarters are in Baghdad. When the Gulf crisis evolved the staff were asked to repatriate from Baghdad and regroup in Amman. Now it is up to the member states to decide whether ESCWA offices will go back to Baghdad. What we do know is that ESCWA will only be staying in Amman until August, 1992. Fouad Beseio, chief of Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Office for ESCWA said.



Farmers dump excess milk as the local market and dairy processing industries cannot absorb it (File photo)

Milk problem spills over

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A special committee set up by the government to examine the problem of surplus milk and the question of organising the absorption of fresh milk by the local dairy processing industries is studying the situation, but no results have been revealed, according to a senior Agriculture Ministry official.

Dr. Ghasoub Al Asali, the ministry's assistant secretary general, told the Jordan Times it was not true that the committee had decided to ban the importation of milk cows pending the outcome of the study as reported by the local press. He described another press report about the dumping of 22 tonnes of fresh milk Monday as an exaggeration.

Dr. Asali said that the ministry would not take any decision concerning the importation of cows or fresh milk produced by the local farms until the committee has presented its findings.

According to Dr. Asali, a local Cattle Breeders Association is represented in the committee, along with officials from the Ministry of Agricul-

ture, and the whole situation is still being reviewed. Ministry of Supply Secretary General Radi Ibrahim was earlier reported as saying that the surplus of fresh milk in the country came as a result of the importation of a large number of cows. However, he said, most of the fresh milk is now being absorbed by the market either through direct sale to the consumers or through sale to the local dairy processing factories.

"Since the beginning of 1991 all dried milk that was used in the dairy products has been banned," Mr. Ibrahim said.

Mr. Ibrahim said that the government had set up the committee, which includes representatives of the ministries of agriculture and supply as well as the Cattle Breeders Association, to find a solution to the problem of surplus milk and offer recommendations.

So far, the committee has discussed the question of banning the importation of "Halibuna" brand of dried milk to help the local farmers market their fresh milk. The committee also discussed the prospect of setting up a processing plant to produce dried powdered

milk. But Mr. Ibrahim said that this was not feasible because the country's farms can not produce enough quantities of fresh milk to meet the factory's needs. Such a project would require hundreds of tonnes of fresh milk on a daily basis, he added.

The former Agriculture Minister Mohammad Al Alawneh had tackled the problem and had suggested that ice cream factories purchase up to 20 tonnes of fresh milk daily and that the processing plants produce cheese under licence from Denmark and sell the product in the local and Arab markets.

Dr. Alawneh had said that the local farms did not produce more than 40 per cent of the country's needs of milk. He said his ministry had issued licences for the importation of 4,000 heads of cattle, but the country was in need of 14,000 more to meet all the needs of the consumers and the factories.

Recent reports said that the Association of Cattle Breeders had been dumping a great deal of milk because they said that the local dairy processing plants could not absorb these extra quantities.

WHAT'S GOING ON

AL FUHEIS CULTURAL FESTIVAL

★ Concert by Jordanian singers Tawfiq Al Nimri and Sakir Hattar at the festival's site in Al Fuheis city — 6:30 p.m.

★ Poetry recital by Jordanian poet Majid Al Majali at the festival's site — 7:45 p.m.

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Economic Forum

Foreign investment policies — false fears

THE Lower House of Parliament Sunday discussed, amended and passed a legislation on foreign and Arab investment in the Kingdom. The deputies seemed to have differed with the government on certain aspects of the related draft law. I will postpone comment on the new law and the controversial points until I read its final version.

As things stand now, it is a stark contradiction that an Arab investor, whether Saudi, Palestinian, Omani, Egyptian or whatever, can own land or property in London, New York, Paris, Spain or Toronto, cannot own property in say, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia or Oman. Likewise, American and Western nationals can roam the Arab world freely without obtaining an entry visa in advance or without one at all, while Arab citizens are denied that treatment. In some cases, it is impossible for an Arab to enter any of a host of Arab countries. In some, or most, Gulf states, an aged mother is denied a visa to visit her son who works there. These are very formidable impediments to inter-Arab investment and trade, which have existed for decades and thereby predate national security "theories."

In formulating their policies towards foreign investment, some developing countries are excessively haunted by the nightmare of

being dominated, through these investments, by foreign influence. In contrast, developed countries are remarkably free from this complex. The United States has recently completely opened its markets to massive Japanese investments to the extent that the term "buy America" gained world-wide currency. But this did not spur the slightest change in American foreign investment policies.

I believe that the time has come for countries like Jordan to abandon foreign influence fears and open their economies for foreign investment, Arab and otherwise, without reservations. The world markets are practically dominated by foreign products and capital in such a way as to make obsolete the argument for defending domestic markets and economies against invading foreign investment. Under classical colonialism, the colonial powers had to rule directly other territories in order to guarantee permanent access to their markets. Now the world has developed in such a way that has guaranteed that access without the headache of ruling the colonies. And developing countries cannot escape this fate except through achieving economic progress itself. Foreign investment can contribute to this goal. There are plenty of countries which benefited from foreign investments for that purpose. Examples of foreign domination created or catalyzed

by foreign investment are rare. The outstanding example is the banana republics and other Latin American countries in the genuine one because the American political domination paved the way for American investments there, not the other way.

Probably, the saddest irony in this regard is the efforts of some developing countries make in order to attract foreign investment. As they offer generous incentives to foreign investors they forget to encourage their own domestic investors probably because they take it for granted. They should encourage the greatest benefits that foreign investment yields, host countries will not make up for the losses inflicted by such a frustrated domestic investment made so by deficient policies and income tax policy gives a very expressive example here. Short income tax policy offers tax exemptions that attract foreign capital but overlook domestic investment, or deny it similar incentives, to the extent that domestic capital is driven abroad. Let us hope that Jordan will not commit this sin.

This is a universally new economic era based mainly on new ideas, trends and rules based in turn on liberalism, freedom of open-mindedness. One hopes that our economic policies and attitudes will be modernized accordingly.

Vague and undefined concerns

THE OUTLINE of the press and publication law, currently being drafted in final shape by the Cabinet, is being perceived by many journalists as a disappointment. Apart from one achievement, namely the abolition of the article that gave the prime minister the authority to close down any publication, the new draft law is full of restrictions and articles that limit both the right of the individual for free expression and curtails the right of the press for genuine and free discourse. Constitutionally, Jordanians are free to express themselves in words, writing and drawing "within the limits of the law." Although the Constitution did specify the "limits of the law," it is believed that our fathers who wrote the Constitution did not envisage such a load of restricting articles in the law. Perhaps one of the most forbidding is article (30-a), which stipulates that a daily newspaper should have a capital of JD 100,000, that it publishes at least 12 daily pages and employs a specified number of staff. Nothing justifies such a load of conditions except a desire in the heart of the legislators to limit the number of periodicals and make monitoring easier.

Another controversial point that many journalists feel is encroaching on one of their basic freedoms in the requirement that journalists should be registered with the Jordanian Press Association. It is certainly one thing to guarantee journalists or any other workers the right to associate, but surely something else to force them to join a body that they might not wish to join. This is in the Constitution's spirit. Journalists, especially those who do not wish to join the association, are outraged.

One would have hoped that with the new age of democracy, the lawmakers would strive to guarantee people's basic rights, foremost among which is freedom of expression and freedom of association. Neither of the two are furthered by the new proposed bill. We are not saying that the new bill is not an improvement over the old one, but we believe that people's and the individual's right to free expression is a sacred right that should not be burdened by a restrictive 45-page press and publication law. Laws should always aim at safeguarding the rights of the people, not some vague, undefined concerns of the state.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Tuesday launched a bitter attack on the Islamic foreign ministers gathered in Istanbul for paving the ground for a new U.S.-led aggression on Iraq. The foreign ministers refused to place on the agenda the question of lifting an embargo on the Iraqi people, imposed by the aggressive forces of the Western alliance; and before the meeting all Arab and Islamic countries had chosen to refrain from doing anything that might end the plight of the Iraqi people or discuss the Western threats to Iraq, the paper noted. We do not know yet the type of falsified final communiqué which these foreign ministers will come up with at the end of their meetings and what kind of Islamic character such communiqué would have, and the paper continued. But it said it has become clear to us that James Baker has made himself foreign minister of all Arab states and all the Islamic countries and nothing can be done without his approval. The paper said that Mr. Baker and his president have decided to starve the Iraqi people for their defiance of threat and for their decision to refuse bribes that bought other Arab and Muslim regimes. It said by rejecting the Iraqi bid for an end to the embargo and by refusing an Iraqi overture for reconciliation, the Islamic countries have paved the way for the Western alliance to launch their aggression anew on the Iraqi people. Before the meeting, the Arab League secretary-general did nothing with regard to an Iraqi request for an Arab League meeting to consider the Western threats posed to Iraq, the paper added. It said that the Arab League and the Islamic countries had harboured premeditated plans to pave the ground for another round of U.S.-led aggression on the Arab and Muslim country of Iraq.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i daily discussed the question of congestion in Amman due to the growth of population on the one hand and the concentration of various economic and industrial projects in the capital's area. Hamdallah Al Nabulsi noted that the return to Jordan from the Gulf region of nearly one quarter million people has been largely responsible for the sudden growth of population in the capital Amman, exactly as had happened to the city following the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars when huge numbers of people settled in the city. The writer criticised concerned government departments for preparing regional studies designed to establish economic and industrial projects outside Amman but failed to carry out the recommendations taken by the numerous seminars that approved those studies. He said that absence of major projects in the rural regions has forced the majority of the returnees and the refugees to head for Amman. The capital is now overburdened with its people and this is adversely reflected in the poor services, in the traffic congestions and the insufficient water and other basic supplies, the writer noted. These problems, he said, are bound to create for Jordan in general and the capital in particular numerous economic and social problems in addition to environmental issues. He urged the concerned authorities to move speedily and implement projects that would ensure the fair distribution of economic gains in all governorates to secure reasonable geographical distribution of the country's population.

By Clovis Maksoud

The writer is a professor at American University, Washington, D.C., and former Arab League ambassador to the United Nations.

NOW that the stage was set at the Moscow Summit to call for the long awaited peace conference, it is perhaps useful to understand how the Arabs read the Israeli negotiating position and how the Arab interpretation may affect the success of such a conference, not withstanding Israel's conditioned acceptance to attend.

It is now clear — as if further clarity was required — that the Israeli demand for prior approval of the Palestinian negotiating team pre-empt any Palestinian claim to sovereignty. If Israel were to succeed in establishing a right of sharing in the selection, then it sets in motion a process whereby the Palestinians forfeit their inalienable right to self-determination. In other words, the Palestinians thus chosen would optimise their municipal interests at the expense of their national rights.

I am convinced that this is a non-starter because no Palestinian worthy of his identity could be found to participate under these terms. If found, such a Palestinian could not deliver on any commitment undertaken. As a result, Israel will try to project such Palestinian absence as proof of renewed Palestinian "rejectionism," while some of its allies and sponsors will, in a show of contrived pragmatism, try to impress upon the Arabs that this is once again a "missed opportunity."

Israel is trying to demonstrate to an eager U.S. administration that it is flexible, while sugar-coating its systematic policy of creeping annexation with a veneer of palatable "reasonableness." Hence, while Israel insists that there should be no preconditions to negotiations when they do take place — a reasonable position — it insures that prior to the start of negotiations its own preconditions have not only been accepted but have become an irrevocable and integral part of the process.

First, Israel rejects outright any participation in negotiations by an Arab from East

Jerusalem, since this would constitute a visible and open challenge to Jerusalem's final status as the "eternal" capital of Israel — a position which is in defiance of the entire international community. Excluding an East Jerusalem Palestinian from the negotiating team in the first round, which the U.S. suggests as a compromise, would further reinforce the Israeli position that East Jerusalem cannot be included under the rubric of "occupied."

Furthermore, since Israel does not consider itself to be in the occupied territories as an occupying power, it is therefore not accountable to the provisions of the Geneva Convention. However, if Israel is not an occupying power in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem, what is its status? No Israeli — whether Likud or Labour — is willing to answer this question because equivocal

"Israel will not negotiate whether it has a right to exist, nor by the same token should the Palestinians be expected to negotiate whether or not they have a right to national self-determination. If these and similar premises are not assumed, the whole process of negotiations will be the trap which ratifies Israel's practical annexation of most if not all the occupied territories."

cating in this respect buys it time for consolidating its claim and presenting the world with new facts accompli. And while public opinion polls indicate that perhaps as much as 50 per cent of the Israeli population is willing to accept the "land for peace" formula, no organisation is willing to state which land — whether all or part.

In addition, the Shamir government maintains that it already has complied with U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 because Israel has withdrawn from the Sinai. Israel has construed its actions to be in full compliance since the English version of the resolution refers to "occupied territories" rather than "the occupied territories." The United States, to its credit, asserts that Resolution 242 applies to all of "the occupied territories." The question then arises as to why there is a built-in reluctance to state clearly that total withdrawal is the en-

visioned outcome of negotiations.

Herein lies the problem. The U.S. avoids a clear and direct answer because it wants to avoid colliding with Israel and its powerful friends in Congress. Besides, the U.S. administration is not always of one mind on this issue. In an attempt to avoid a direct confrontation with Israel, the U.S. is asking the Arab states to hold off on this question until the negotiations begin. Thus, the holding of a conference practically becomes an objective in and of itself. The U.S. pressed the Arabs to respond to its initiative, but when they did, Israel became more exacting in its demands, more insistent that its terms of reference prevail, and more adamant that its substantive positions remain intact. It appears that as the Arabs accommodate the U.S. initiative, the U.S. moves to accommodate Israel's obduracy.

At this point, the administration's priority is for the process to begin; where it leads to is secondary, if not irrelevant. The Arabs are caught in a dilemma, part of which is of their own making. Israel knows this and seeks to take full advantage of it.

To begin with, several important Arab states have stated their willingness to suspend their economic boycott measures against Israel in return for an Israeli freeze on settlements. However, while the boycott is a legal instrument of a state of belligerency, the planting of settlements in the occupied territories is a clear violation of the Geneva Convention and of international law. Thus, to equate a legal practice with an illegal practice puts the Arabs at a clear negotiating disadvantage. Resolution 242 outlines a sequence where withdrawal is followed by a cessation of the state of belligerency, including the

boycott. But in the rush to please, President Mubarak, supported by other Arab states, called for the suspension of the boycott prematurely. Had he called for the suspension in return for the dismantling of the illegal settlements, rather than just a freeze, then, perhaps, the Arabs could have more readily bitten the bullet.

Yet this formula, which was also adopted by the G-7, was rejected outright by Israel. Terming the Arab boycott "immoral," the Israeli government proceeded to multiply "housing" projects in the occupied territories, including the Golan Heights. To press its point further, Israel and its friends in Congress have moved to decouple its impending \$10 billion loan guarantee request from the issue of freezing the settlements, as the Bush administration requested, arguing that while the loan guarantee is for a "humanitarian purpose," the freezing of settlements is an issue for negotiations. Emboldened by the fact that the U.S. no longer terms the settlements illegal, Israel felt that it could manage, with assistance from its friends, the "obstacle to peace" argument.

At this moment, when the U.S. and the Soviet Union are envisaging an invitation to a regional peace conference, it is clear to the Arabs that they are at a clear disadvantage despite the kudos some are receiving for "flexibility" and newly discovered "realism."

So, what really constitutes the Arab disadvantage? Besides going into a regional conference instead of an international one, acquiescing to a symbolic U.N. presence instead of an active role, being unnecessarily lenient on authentic Palestinian representation, and disposed to forgo the economic boycott in return for nebulous and ambivalent Israeli commitment to freeze settlements, the Arabs are confronted with an Israel which even objects to outlining a possible outcome of negotiations. In fact, on July 27, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens stated that this would "preempt negotiations." As far as Israel is concerned, seeking to define the objective of negotiations or to determine a credible and

mutually acceptable outcome constitute "pre-conditions." Yet, Israel's declarations that East Jerusalem is not negotiable, that settlements will not be dismantled, that "not an inch" of territory will be abandoned, are not "pre-conditions."

So, let us be frank on this crucial and central issue. Negotiations for the Arab states and the PLO are means towards an end. They are not and cannot be an end in themselves. This appears to be the norm, the expected, the logical for us, and presumably for everybody else. However, not for Israel. Israel wants to set the agenda and spell out the terms of reference. To accept this is to be sucked into an endless pillaging process designed to exasperate Arab negotiators, exhaust the sponsors and despair the Palestinians.

For these reasons, the Arabs — and even the sponsors of the peace process — must be careful. The Arabs must insist that the outcome is spelled out, and that what is subject to negotiations are the modalities, the

phases of transition and safeguards. Negotiations — not fishing trips to discover what the rights of the people are, but a process to lay about a peaceful resolution of conflicting interests.

Israel will not negotiate whether it has a right to exist, nor by the same token should the Palestinians be expected to negotiate whether or not they have a right to national self-determination. If these and similar premises are assumed, the whole process of negotiations will be the trap which ratifies Israel's practical annexation of most if not all the occupied territories. A Arab leader has the disposition to do so because none has a right.

This impels Arab leaders to insure an outcome which is conformity with what the international community has spelled out as legitimate Arab and Palestinian rights — no more, no less. These negotiations are consequential, and put even one in the Middle East on the path to a just, comprehensive and durable peace.

LETTERS

Sad decision

To the Editor

THE Jordanian business community is saddened to know about the parliamentarians attitude towards foreign investors in Jordan. I believe that it is our duty to put facts in front of the parliamentarians and argue the pros and cons of the participation of non-Arab capital in the development of Jordan.

We would have expected that Parliament would invite Jordanians with foreign partners to come forward and talk to the House. In the world of true democracy, a parliamentary hearing should become standard practice. We do not expect the parliamentarians to be all knowing about political, economic, cultural and other affairs. We believe that the parliamentarians have the confidence of the people because they have common sense, i.e. they are not experts but willing to reason.

To mention few of the merits of foreign partnership let me list the following points:

— Foreign capital is a form of technology transfer. We lost the Gulf war because of our lack of technology. We are a Third World country because of lack of technology.

— Foreign capital is a form of know-how transfer. We had the failure of Petra Bank, Jordan-Gulf Bank, investment companies, hotels, airlines, the fertiliser factory because of lack of know-how.

— Foreign capital is a tool that balances our balance-of-payment. We do not have many commodities or services to export. Capital transfer is a form of covering our deficit.

— Foreign capital allows us to integrate in the world economy and not to be isolated like Chad or Burkina Faso. Capital transfer allows us to give and take, and interact in technology, know-how and to better our standard. If one wants to see isolation one should go and visit Vietnam.

The Gulf states understood the importance of foreign investment in the economies of their countries. Accordingly, foreign institutions were allowed participation in banking, insurance, industry, and were accorded the same rights as the locals. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE and others made admirable strides into world economy. Meanwhile economies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq have suffered because of a provincial nationalist outlook.

Americans, the EC, the USSR and countries within these economic blocks are encouraging investment and technology transfer. Ireland offers investors 12 years tax holiday. England offers investors in Wales 50 per cent of the capital needed as a grant. The military factories of the USSR are for sale. All these countries appreciate the importance of foreign capital participation.

Today, Jordan has a magnificent opportunity to attract investment from Gulf returnees and Iraqi businessmen. The returnees managed the Gulf economies and established lasting relations with foreign companies. They can contribute their trust and competence in convincing foreigners to participate with us in investing in Jordan.

Iraqi businessmen will bring their know-how on Iraqi requirements and would give Jordan the opportunity for major industrial investments. There is not a single Arab country excluding the Gulf states, that has money to invest in Jordan. We have to go into the international financial market and with the help of foreign partners convince the world that we are a good place to invest in.

To invest in Jordan takes a great deal of courage and vision in the Middle East is like buying a ticket to trouble. We have wars, nationalisation of industries, coups d'etat, dictatorial military rules, political and economic unaccountability. This is why all Middle Easterners keep their money abroad. It is a major effort to convince foreigners to invest in the Middle East and similar effort to convince us.

We have a request to all the deputies who voted for the exclusion of foreign capital from Jordan to act with a sense of national responsibility to their constituents in the long-run and not to be carried away the emotions of the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Wafiq K. Dajani

Amman

Baker mission may be running into a Middle East deadlock

By Jonathan Wright

Reuter

NICOSIA — When U.S. Secretary of State James Baker flew to Israel with a proposal to hold a Middle East peace conference in October, it looked like he was about to reap the harvest from months of diplomatic labour. When he flew out of Jordan two days later, the deadlock over Palestinian representation looked like a carbon copy of the impasse which in early 1990 thwarted Baker's first attempt to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Baker and his team have been looking on the bright side of this trip, his sixth to the Middle East since the end of the Gulf war with Iraq in February. They say that winning Syrian agreement to take part in the peace conference, the change that provided the impetus for the trip, is a major achievement for U.S. policy.

Mr. Baker crowned that on Thursday, they say, when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir gave a qualified "yes" to peace talks — provided the Palestinian delegation meets Israeli condi-

tions. "I think that the prospects of Arab-Israeli peace discussions are no longer simply a dream... We have made tremendous progress. I think, in moving toward an active and viable peace process," Mr. Baker told reporters at Mr. Shamir's office.

Their optimism seemed to be holding up at the weekend, when Mr. Baker arrived in Rabat to tap Morocco's contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), effectively to persuade the PLO to give Israel a say in choosing Palestinian delegates. "The two toughest nuts to crack were Syria and Israel," said a senior U.S. official with the secretary of state. "My instinct is they (the Palestinians) will find a way to participate."

But Mr. Baker's team has given no indication it has contrived any magic formula to bridge the gap between Israel and Palestinian ideas on how the Palestinians should be represented.

Israel rejects any PLO role and any Palestinian delegates from Arab East Jerusalem. The PLO, just as it did in early 1990, has conceded that the dele-

gates need not be PLO officials. But it reserves the right to name them and it insists that East Jerusalem, occupied in the Middle East war of 1967 and later annexed by Israel, should be treated in the same way as the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights.

Palestinians outside the PLO are unlikely to take part in the conference without PLO approval. Even if they did, few Palestinians would accept them as their representatives.

So what began as a dramatic bid by Mr. Baker to twist Israel's arm into matching Syria's acceptance has degenerated into a complex mediation task with no early end in sight.

Statements by Israel and the Palestinians suggest that rather than make concessions, their priority is to ensure they do not take the blame if the U.S. initiative miscarries.

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian team that met Mr. Baker on Friday, said of Mr. Shamir's agreement to take part in peace talks, "I don't see what all the fuss is about. The 'yes' with conditions is a 'no' in fact."

She said later that one com-

promise Mr. Baker proposed was that the Palestinians choose delegates they knew Israel would accept, without renouncing their right to choose others.

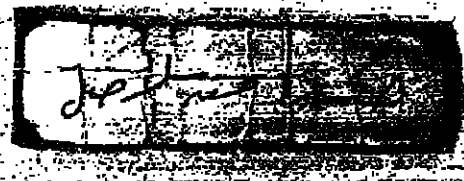
Sovereignty over East Jerusalem, claimed by Israel and disputed by most of the rest of the world, would also be off the agenda, she added.

A senior U.S. official said on Thursday Mr. Baker had tried to break the deadlock by promising to give Israel and the Arab states written assurances on aspects of the conference.

Some assurances would involve Palestinian representation and they did not include a blanket veto for the Jewish state, he added without giving other details.

Mr. Baker, by instructing State Department experts to visit the Middle East next week to work on the Palestinian issue, has already indicated he no longer expects to tie up the conference arrangements before his long summer holiday.

He will be hard pressed to revive the momentum by the time he comes back, possibly in early September.



King hopes hurdles could be overcome

(Continued from page 1)

As I really would not rather get into details, but I would like only to discuss here that Jerusalem, as far as we are concerned, the Arab part of Jerusalem, is occupied territory, equal to all other territories occupied on 5 June 1967. But beyond that in a context of peace, Jerusalem must become the seat of peace, the meaning of peace between the followers of the three monotheistic religions and the rights of all have to be preserved there. So I think that there is a feeling we should not get into public debate too much, and there should be quiet, active diplomacy and once the process starts, then probably many things that look impossible at this moment may be possible later when people realize what an opportunity there is for all of them and for the generations to come.

Q: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been very adamant that there will be no (return) of

occupied territories in all of this. Did you see though that perhaps out of this conference there will indeed be an agreement on land for peace?

A: I believe that these are very essential elements; land for peace, 242 speaks of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war, the rights of Palestinians on their legitimate soil and the security for all and a comprehensive approach to the problem, a comprehensive peace for all, not even in that context, in the countries surrounding Israel, but the whole region.

Q: What your territorial objective at such a conference could be?

A: My territorial objective? Yes, I have no territorial objectives. We have some territories that are occupied along the line of the ceasefire or the borders. They have to be sorted out. But, beyond that we are the country most affected by the Palestinian problem in every respect. We

have received and been affected by every thing that happened since the beginning. We are very, very anxious to see peace. We have the longest borders and ceasefire lines with Israel and we have many common interests in terms of real peace for all and a better future for all.

Q: What you feel from your perspective is essential that you can come out of that conference with?

A: Peace and peace and peace that can be accepted by generations to come and protected and a chance and opportunity for all to live in an atmosphere that has not been possible all of these years. And a gift for all generations to come.

Q: Where do you think it is going to be held?

A: I honestly do not know. That is still a subject of debate, maybe somewhere not too far away so that we can keep in touch with what is happening in the conference in terms of the delegations.

Iraq says it can make plutonium

(Continued from page 1)

Security Council members said Monday that the new disclosures are unlikely to soften their resolve to maintain the trade embargo they imposed on Iraq when it invaded Kuwait a year ago.

Under the U.N. ceasefire resolution that ended the Gulf war, Iraq agreed to cooperate in the disclosure and destruction of its long-range ballistic missiles as well as its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons capabilities.

These are disclosures in a long, long series of failings and cheating by the government of Iraq," said British Ambassador David Hannay. "The vast majority of the council have taken the view that there is no justification for changes in the sanctions regime."

U.N. officials in Baghdad said that Iraq had admitted to engaging in secret germ warfare research for four years. But Iraq officials said the programme was for defensive military use and was abandoned after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The head of the team, David Kelly of Britain, said Iraq notified him of

the germ warfare programme within hours of his arrival and was cooperating with his inspectors.

"We have made progress today," he told reporters after his inspectors visited the site of the experiments at Salman Pak, 30 kilometers south of Baghdad.

Mr. Kelly described his mission as a hunt for "biological weapons and research which leads to the production of biological weapons and the ingredients of them" but he refused to say whether he had found evidence of weapons.

He said he knew of the existence of the site before he arrived in Iraq. The team has so far only examined the one site, but Mr. Kelly said he intended to visit others.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by Iraq's newspapers earlier, said the Iraqi authorities had identified the research site to the team on the evening of its arrival.

"The Iraqi side has informed the inspection team that there is a laboratory for biological research for military purposes within a general research establishment," the spokesman told the Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra.

Israel outlines its 'understanding'

(Continued from page 1)

be known to all.

The Soviet Union severed diplomatic ties with Israel after the 1967 war. In the last few years there has been a thaw in relations, which are now at consular level.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir promised cabinet hardliners he would walk out of the Middle East peace conference if Syria insists on regaining the Golan Heights, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Yossi Alhimer, director of Mr. Shamir's office, said he could not confirm the reports but said Mr. Shamir was "determined to insist that the Golan Heights remain an integral part of Israel."

Mr. Shamir has often said he objected to returning the strategic Golan plateau to Syria, but these were his toughest comments on the issue since Israel conditionally accepted the joint U.S.-Soviet negotiating formula Thursday.

"U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev wanted to convene a Middle East peace conference in October.

Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and the Gulf states have agreed to attend peace talks.

While meeting Monday with leaders of the Tehiya Party to try to persuade them against quitting the government over peace moves, Mr. Shamir had some sharp exchanges over the land-for-peace issue, the newspapers said.

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Baker ready to make new shuttle

(Continued from page 1)

"The secretary-general has been following with great interest the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Baker to the Middle East and North Africa," a statement read by a U.N. spokeswoman said.

"The secretary-general is encouraged by developments over the weekend which indicate that progress is being made and that the prospects for launching a negotiating process have been significantly enhanced."

Mr. Baker told Israeli Monday that he made progress towards promoting peace talks in the three Maghreb countries.

"He felt he had done well," Yossi Ben Aharon, senior adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, told Reuters.

Mr. Aharon said Mr. Baker wrote to Mr. Shamir Monday afternoon reporting a "degree of progress" but giving no further details.

Israel has refused to accept an Arab East Jerusalem Palestinian on the Palestinian negotiating team. Palestinians say Israel should not be able to dictate their delegation.

The compromise would have a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation include a Palestinian born in Arab East Jerusalem who now lives in Jordan.

On Sunday, a top PLO official, Bassam Abu Sharif, told American

reporters who travelled with Mr. Baker: "I don't think there will be an obstacle that is big enough that would prevent the Palestinians from going to the conference."

A political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Mr. Abu Sharif has often been a conduit for moderate-sounding policies that were later abandoned or repudiated.

The PLO on Monday distanced itself from Mr. Abu Sharif's remarks, saying they reflected his own personal views.

The senior U.S. official said Mr. Baker had not heard from Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories since he met them in occupied Jerusalem last Friday.

Before returning to Washington, Mr. Baker unexpectedly said at a news conference in Algiers that Libya, one Maghreb country he did not visit, could also join the Middle East conference.

The United States considers Libya a sponsor of "state terrorism" and has not had diplomatic ties for at least a decade.

Engaged now in what appears to be the endgame of the U.S. initiative to organize a conference, Mr. Baker may have felt compelled in the Maghreb, an area of some intense anti-American feelings, not to exclude anyone from the peace process.

"We seek support for peace from

whatever quarter, and we seek support for this proposal of ours from every quarter," Mr. Baker said in Algiers.

He said the United States also would be "very pleased" if the North African Arab states sent an observer to the peace talks the United States and the Soviet Union intend to hold in October.

Mr. Ibrahim said Algeria would ask the Arab Maghreb Union to call a foreign ministers meeting on the U.S. peace efforts and would also discuss them with the Palestinians.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij met Mr. Baker Tuesday and denounced the foundation of a new Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank, but the United States was silent on the development.

Mr. Freij met Mr. Baker for half an hour. Contrary to the normal procedure, photographers were not invited to take pictures of the two as they began their meeting and reporters were also kept away.

Mr. Freij said after the meeting that Israel's determination to build new Jewish settlements in the West Bank was the greatest single obstacle to peace.

But the State Department had no comment on the establishment of another new outpost in the West Bank south of the town of Hebron.

Arafat appeals to Europe

(Continued from page 1)

obstacle that will be big enough that will prevent a Palestinian from attending," Bassam Abu Sharif told a news conference.

But Wafa quoted an unidentified PLO spokesman as saying Monday that Mr. Abu Sharif was stating only his personal views. Mr. Abu Sharif in the past has made moderate statements that were later knocked down by PLO officials.

Mr. Arafat has taken a harder stance, saying on Algerian Radio that the Palestinian struggle would continue until the Palestinian flag flies over Arab East Jerusalem.

Analysis say Mr. Arafat is in a difficult position, trying to rally both hardline and moderate support while balancing one of the PLO's central tenets against the possibility of a negotiated peace.

"We have said 'yes' to a peace conference and we do not pose conditions... but we are not bending to Israeli conditions," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Commenting on Mr. Baker's trip to the Middle East and North Africa, Mr. Arafat said:

"The agreement (of Mr. Baker) to the non-representation of Jerusalem and the exclusion of this question from the agenda signifies that he is officially and practically in agreement with the Israeli plan."

"If the United States has ceded to pressure from Israel and the Jewish lobby, nothing obliges us to do the same," Mr. Arafat said.

"It is true that Mr. Baker spoke of assurance for all the parties, but in none of his meetings has he uttered... to the PLO which is the essential party in peace," Mr. Arafat said.

He also questioned Mr. Baker's assurances given in Tunis that the U.S. position on the Arab-Israeli conflict would not change.

Mr. Arafat said the United States wanted to bring the Arab countries to negotiations with Israeli preconditions.

"This would be capitulation," he said.

Mr. Arafat said: "Consultations now being held with our brothers in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria to study the results of Yasser Arafat's tour have not yet ended."

But he reiterated he would not give way over Jerusalem.

"It is (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir who, in declaring that Jerusalem is excluded from negotiations, has made this an obstacle (to peace talks) and not us," he said.

Syria rejected Tuesday Israeli demands to approve Palestinian delegates to the peace conference and said the Arabs have shown enough flexibility to prove they were serious about peace.

"The conditions set by Israel in the face of the peace process are rejected in form and content," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa told a

meeting of foreign ministers from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Istanbul.

"Palestinian representation at the peace conference is a matter that concerns the Palestinian people alone. Israel has no right to interfere in naming member of the Palestinian delegation or the towns and areas they come from," he added.

"Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, the West Bank and Gaza Strip should all be returned to their Arab owners," he said.

He said Syria thought Palestinian delegates could be chosen either by the PLO or through free elections under international supervision in the occupied territories.

Mr. Sharaa said Arab agreement to take part in a conference based on

U.N. resolutions was a major concession which showed they were seriously looking for peace.

"These resolutions were issued as a compromise between the permanent members of the Security Council, who are mostly closer to Israel than the Arabs," he said.

"The Arab sides' acceptance... of U.S. resolutions is in itself an expression of a great Arab flexibility that could not have been possible without Arab keenness to spare the people of the region more destruction, bloodshed and wars," he added.

He also attacked Jewish immigration to Israel, saying Jews were being brought to "land where their fathers and ancestors did not live at any period in history."

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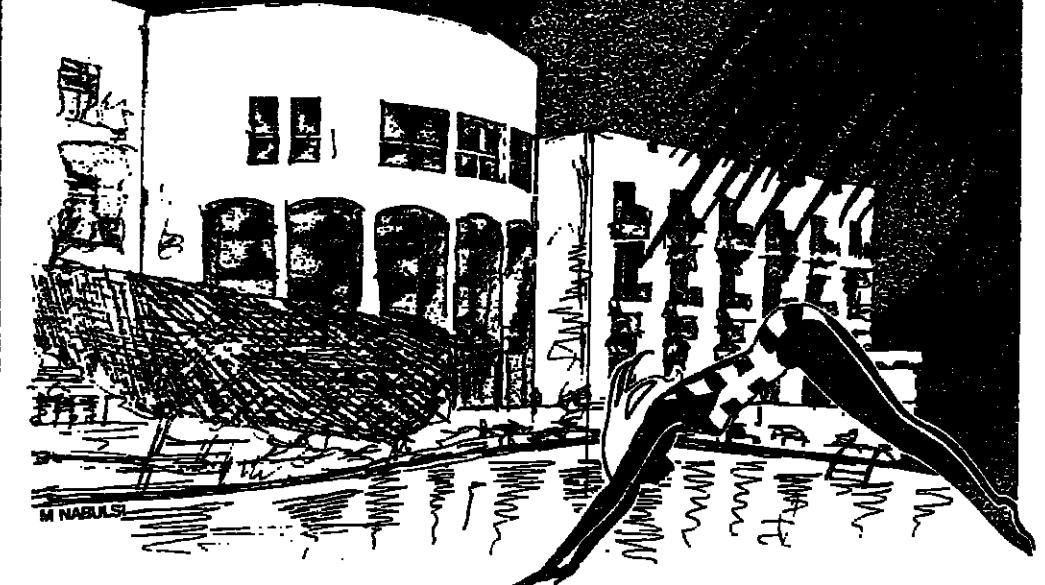


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Bubka sets new record

MALMO, Sweden (Agencies) — After soaring to yet another world record, Sergei Bubka lifted his pole vault.

"Please, give me a beer," he asked one official after breaking his own pole vault record by one-half inch, clearing 6.10 metres at the Idag Galan track meet.

"How about champagne?" said one onlooker.

Bubka agreed. This was a special occasion.

"Maybe I should have champagne after all," he said.

The 28-year-old Ukrainian's 28th world mark — 15 indoors and 13 outdoors — means he's one of the greatest record-breakers in track and field history.

But coming into the meet, Bubka's chances didn't look bright. He was tired after competing in Monaco Saturday and he felt pain in his left leg while warming up.

"It was so difficult jumping early in tonight's competition. The wind was changing all the time and I had to wait for the right moment," said Bubka, who made his first two heights — at 5.70 (18-8 1/4) and 5.85 (19-2 1/4) — on his second attempts.

"I only planned to jump once at 6.10, but the fans motivated me. They gave me power. I felt very fast and very strong."

Most of the 24,657 fans, a record turnout for this meet,

were still in the stadium when Bubka made the record on his third and final attempt.

"The atmosphere was great. The fans helped me," said Bubka.

Bubka, whose world indoor record is 6.12 metres, set March 23 in France, said breaking the 20-foot barrier both indoors and outdoors made him very happy.

"It was my goal this season to jump 6.10 outdoors," he said. "And I also got another record tonight. This was my eighth record, indoors and outdoors, this year. In 1984, I set seven world records."

Bubka's next meet is the Weltklasse in Zurich, Switzerland, Wednesday. Then he will go back to the Soviet Union and prepare for the World Championships in Tokyo later this month.

"I will not jump after Zurich. I'm going to spend a week with the Soviet team in Vladivostok before Tokyo," he said.

Leroy Burrell, the world-record holder in the men's 100 metres, beat his Santa Monica teammate Carl Lewis for the second time this year in the "king of sprints" race.

Burrell, who broke Lewis' world record by two-tenths of a second with a 9.90 clocking last time they met in the U.S. Championships in mid June, took the lead early and won in 10.06 seconds.

Lewis, who had a terrible start out of the blocks, clocked 10.13 after closing well.

Dennis Mitchell made it an American 1-2-3 finish in 10.14 seconds. Linford Christie of Britain, a silver medalist behind Lewis in the 1988 Olympics and the European champion and record holder, was fourth in 10.18.

It was one of the strongest 100-metre fields since the Seoul Olympics, but the race was marred by two false starts. The first one was called on Burrell.

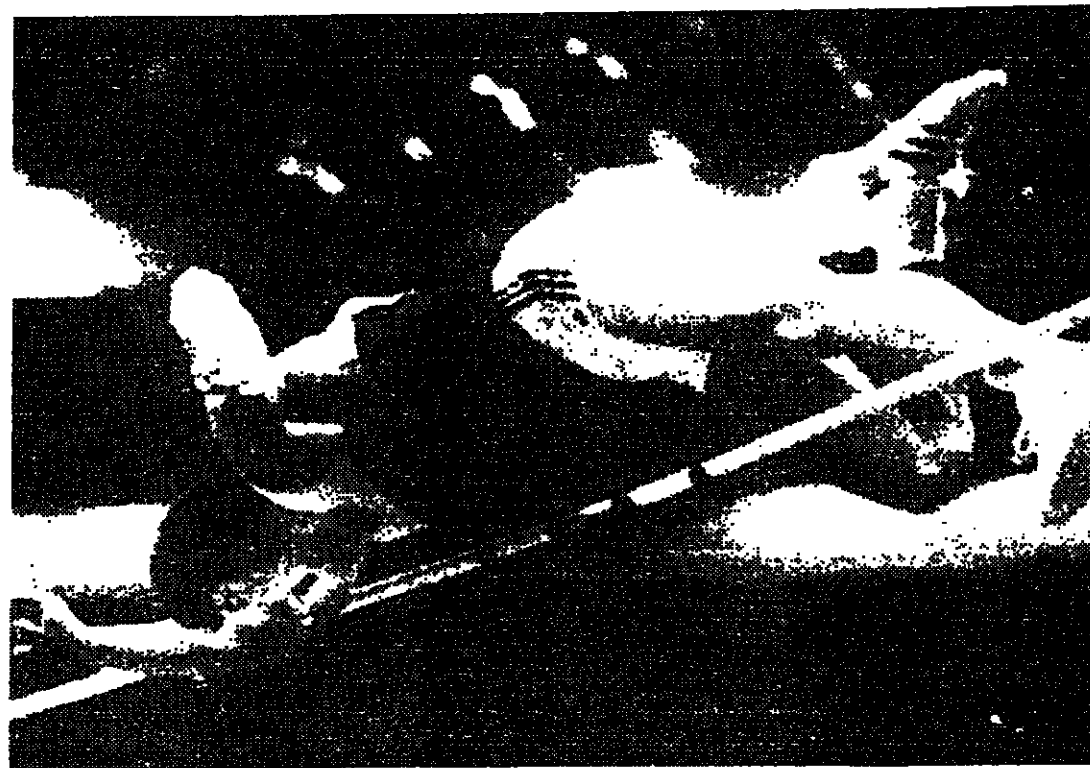
"It's a good feeling. All the best guys in the world were here and everybody wanted to win," Burrell said.

Burrell and Lewis, reluctant to show their cards before it really counts, have avoided racing each other this season.

"It was an important victory. But I've got to remember that a lot can happen between now and Tokyo, every race is new," Burrell said.

In terms of speed I'm faster than ever, but everything has to come together. I have not run one good race this year," said Lewis, who clocked 9.93 when he was beaten by Burrell in New York.

"I started badly today and it was a scrappy race," said Lewis, adding that he hoped the 100 metres at the final Grand Prix of the season in Zurich Wednesday would inspire the confidence-boosting effort he needed.



Soviet pole vaulter, Sergei Bubka, clears the bar setting a new world record

Jarryd surprises Svensson at ATP Championships in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, Ohio (R) — Anders Jarryd surprised 16th-seeded fellow Swede Jonas Svensson by refusing to fold on his way to a 6-7 7-5 6-4 first-round victory at the \$1.3 million ATP Championships.

"I think he was a little bit surprised I kept fighting all the time," Jarryd said. "I think maybe he was waiting for me to fall apart, but I didn't do it."

The 31st-ranked Jarryd, a former top-five player who plummeted to 178 in the world last year, said his ability to rebound and win a tough three-setter provided a much needed confidence boost.

"I was very disappointed and was thinking for a while I might

quit," said Jarryd, who has been plagued by shoulder and knee injuries. "But then I started working and I decided to give it another try."

Aaron Krickstein provided the day's other upset when he beat 15-seeded fellow American Richey Reneberg 7-6 3-6 7-6.

The ATP Championships, a hardcourt tune-up for the U.S. Open, features seven of the world's top 10 players.

The top eight seeds, including top-ranked Australian Open champion Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg, Ivan Lendl, French Open champion Jim Courier, Andre Agassi and U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras, all re-

ceived first round byes.

Two seeded players advanced Monday. Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek, seeded 11th, crushed American Jimmy Arias 6-1 6-1 and 10th-seeded Soviet Andrei Cherkasov ousted Australian Todd Woodbridge 7-6 6-1.

Unfortunately for Reneberg, Krickstein is one of the few players who is comfortable in tiebreak situations and he showed it Monday.

Krickstein came back from 2-4 down in the third set tiebreak to run off the last five points of the match. "Seldom do I lose a close match," Krickstein said. "When I'm in a tight match, I'm the aggressor."

2 seeds fall in Canadian Open

TORONTO (R) — Little-known American Jessica Emmons and Soviet Larisa Savchenko provided first round upsets Monday, the opening day of the \$500,000 Canadian Open Women's Tennis Tournament.

German veteran Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, seeded 15th, fell to Savchenko 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, while Emmons, ranked 159th in the world, claimed a 1-6, 6-2, 6-3 win from 14th-seeded Italian Katia Piccolini.

Kohde-Kilsch was serving for the match at 5-4 of the third set, but she was broken at 15 by Savchenko, who went on to take the third set tiebreak 9-7.

Emmons broke the 37th-ranked Italian four times in the middle set and twice more in the decider, while losing her serve just once in that span.

The top eight seeds, including world number three Gabriela Sabatini and 15-year-old sensation Jennifer Capriati, received first round byes.

Capriati, who scored one of the biggest wins of her career when she upset Monica Seles in the

Mazda Classic final Sunday, was not expected to see action until Wednesday.

Four seeds advanced, including 10th-seeded Peruvian Gabriela Sabatini, who needed three tough sets and more than two hours to oust American Ann Henricksson 7-5, 5-7, 7-4.

"It was such a terrible match for me," Gildemeister said. "I should have won the match in two sets. I was up 5-1 in the second set."

Eleventh seed Helen Kelesi also survived a sloppy performance to beat fellow Canadian Melanie Bernard 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 and 13th-seeded American Marianne Werdel edged compatriot Audra Keller 6-2, 6-7, 7-6. Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia, seeded 16th, topped German Eva Pfaff 6-2, 7-5.

Steffi Graf, who regained her number one ranking when Seles lost to Capriati Sunday, was nursing a shoulder injury and withdrew from the Toronto event.

Novacek wins ATP Cup

KITZBUHEL, Austria (AP) — No. 3 seed Karel Novacek overcame Magnus Gustafsson, 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 to win the final of the \$375,000 ATP Philips Head Cup.

Novacek, playing his fifth tournament in this Alpine resort, fought hard to overcome the fourth seeded Swede who had beaten him in their two previous encounters.

This time Novacek played

more confidently, even though the two hour-36 minute match was closely contested until the final set.

"After winning the two tie breaks it was only a question of time," he said. "I'm very glad I won this tournament. I fought for every ball."

Gustafsson, No. 10 in the ATP world rankings, was fighting an arm injury which needed attention in the second set.

Cuba gets 7 of 9 track golds at Pan Am Games

HAVANA (R) — U.S. performances at the Pan American Games were about as ominous as the huge rain clouds looming over the brand-new stadium on the third day of competition.

The Americans set some sort of record in failing to win a single gold medal in any of the athletics events they usually dominate.

The series of early setbacks in events like the men's 100 metres which Americans had been expected to win left open the real possibility that for the first time since the Pan American Games started 40 years ago the United States could be dethroned as the top medal winner.

Their possible replacement at the top of the medals table was arch-rivals Cuba.

The hosts ran off with seven of the nine athletics gold medals up for grabs in the finals Monday. Brazil completed the swamping of the United States by picking up the other two golds.

The Cubans won gold medals in the women's and men's 100 metres, women's high jump, men's javelin, men and women's 300 metres, and men's long jump.

One of the most memorable events of the day was the women's 100 metres, won in an upset by Cuban Liliana Allen in 11.33 seconds to the thunderous cheers of nearly 30,000 of her compatriots who braved the rain early in the day and the heavy clouds sitting over the stadium.

Her performance no doubt was helped by the absence of many world-class athletes, especially

Americans who have opted for other competitions. Her day was completed when Cuban President Fidel Castro draped the gold medal around her neck.

Cuba's reigning Pan American 400-metre champion Ana Fidelia Quirot set a new games record of 49.51 seconds, refusing to falter under a strong challenge from Colombia's Ximena Restrepo.

Compatriot Roberto Hernandez won the men's 400 metres going away.

The most emotional reaction to victory was turned in by Brazilian Robson Caetano da Silva, who overcame two false starts in the men's 100 metres and a less than perfect burst from the blocks to beat American Andre Cason by three hundredths of a second.

While on the victory stand the tall Brazilian wept into the tiny Brazilian flag he was carrying. Da Silva, who said he is dedicating his victory to his mother, Georgette in Rio De Janeiro, said he thought his relatively slow time of 10.32 seconds was due to nerves and a track slowed by early afternoon rains.

"I'm preparing to run below 10 (seconds) in Tokyo (World Championships). I'm not worried about the Americans. I'm worried about my own time and my own performance."

Cuba's fans even received an extra bonus when Maria Del Carmen Garcia, wife of Cuban world high-jump record holder Javier Sotomayor, won a silver in the women's high-jump behind compatriot Ioanmet Quintero.

Lewis heads another assault on world sprint relax record

ZURICH (R) — Carl Lewis heads another assault on the world 4X100 metres men's relay record Wednesday in Europe's richest and most prestigious grand prix athletics meeting.

The world's top athletes have turned out in force again for the Zurich Grand Prix, with just 18

days remaining until the third World Championships start in Tokyo.

Included among the elite are Olympic 100 metres champion Lewis and his Santa Monica track club team mates who equalled the world sprint relay record in Monaco last Saturday.

Quentrec, Ferrando win in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Third-seeded Mary Pierce ran fellow French pro Nathalie Herremann into qu-4 submission with a variety of use ne shots for a 6-2, 6-2, win in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Albuquerque tournament.

Earlier, France's Karine Quentrec defeated fifth-seeded Patty Fendick of Sacramento, California 6-2, 6-3, and seventh-seeded Linda Ferrando of Italy ousted Marketa Kochta of Germany, 2-6, 6-1, 6-3.

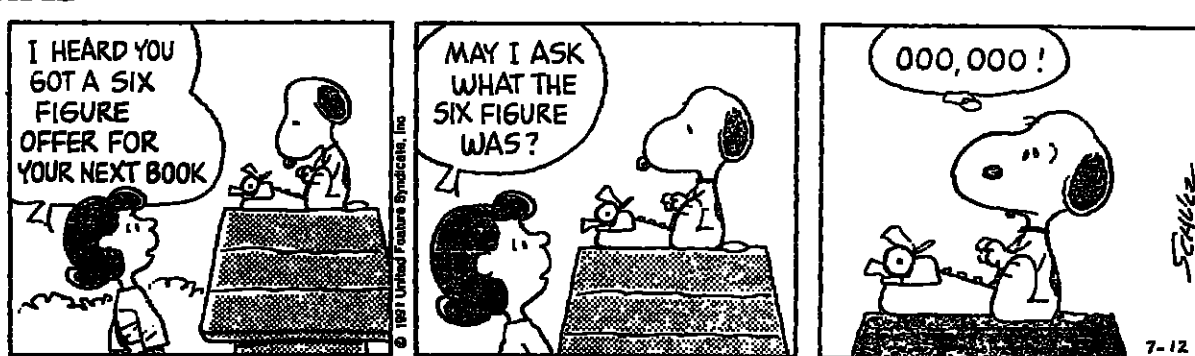
In other first-round matches, Alexia Dechaume of France beat Caroline Kuhlman of Los Angeles, 6-3, 6-4; Halle Cioffi of U.S. beat Stacey Martin of U.S., 6-3, 6-3; and 16-year-old Tatiana Ignatieva of the Soviet Union beat Pascale Paradis-Mangon of France, 6-4, 6-3.

Pierce, a native of Canada who now lives in France, was content to remain on the baseline while firing crosscourt shots at Herremann.

"I played how I wanted to play. I don't normally play that well in the first round and usually get better as I go along," said Pierce, who needed just 63 minutes to advance.

Quentrec, one of nine French players in the 32-player field, took command of the match after dropping the opening game to Fendick.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The light dawns today on how to deal with a deception that has put into motion a course of action that is blocking you from receiving answers and information that you have been seeking.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You now can get out in the world activity and do the things that make your life much more pleasant and delightful and can make allies more helpful.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you would like to do that requires a more practical approach than usual is excellent today but later avoid getting into a disagreement.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take some time out to joint with close companions in the recreations that you like and that are quite personal in their nature, but wait till all projects are done.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your moment to get off alone for a while to plan just what you want in the future and the best methods by which to obtain all.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now you are able to find the right outlets through which to deepen whatever alliance you have with good friends and interesting acquaintances.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you are able to find the many ways to take your place in

the outside world with less reliance and more respect from others in power.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) So many ideas that have not been a part of your consciousness before this are now yours that you are able to gain the good will of many new individuals.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have all kinds of plans and methods by which to increase your productivity and to make your creditors realize you are a conscientious individual.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Coming to a new arrangement with partners is evident now as they and you have an open mind and are able to turn out ways to get along.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your own happiness can be achieved by some ingenious new methods that show your ability to come up with some interesting new angles and means to get ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever makes you more aware of that way for you to express your special aptitude in the right things for you to do to put plans in motion.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your time to do whatever you will get you in right with members of your own household. Think out what they like and get it for them without.

My birth stone & I are one person.

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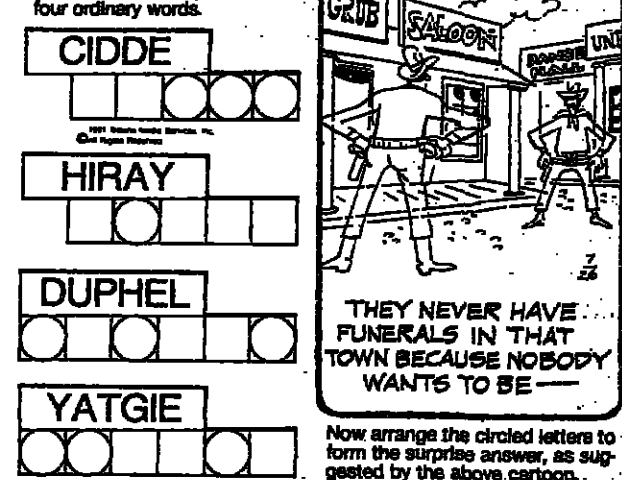
Amman - Rio De Janeiro Amman - Amman - Rio De Janeiro

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



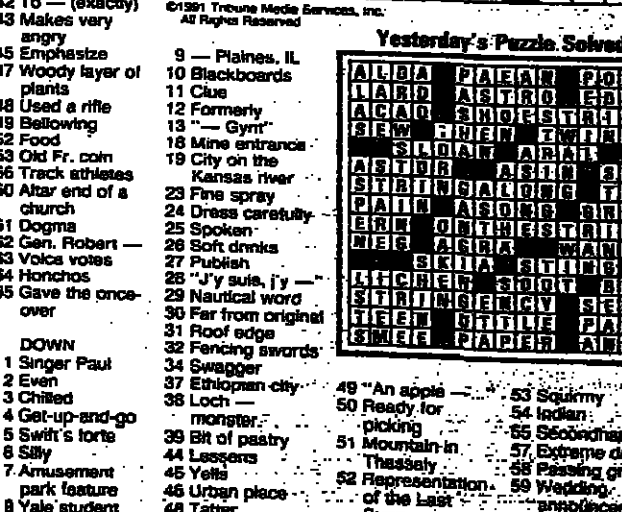
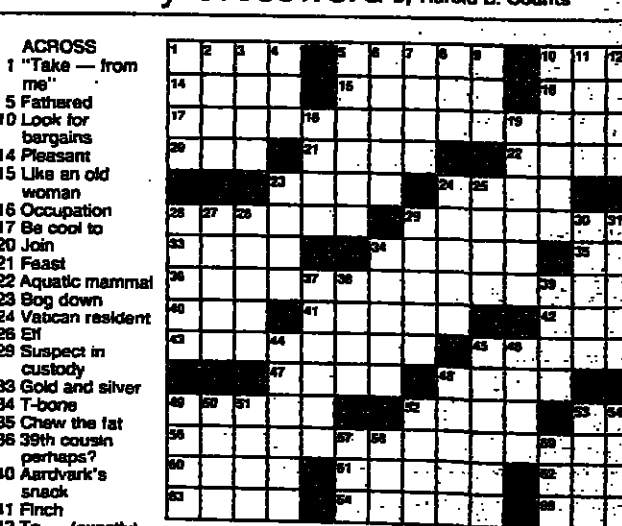
JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAWL, BERTH, TRUIM, LOTION. Answer: How did he know his wife was a natural blonde? — IT SAID SO ON THE BOTTLE.

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH

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EMULATING THE FAMOUS

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 8 2
♥ J 7 6
♦ K Q 6 4
♣ K 4 2

EAST
♠ K 4
♥ K 9 8
♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ A Q 10 9

SOUTH
♠ A J 7 6 5
♥ A Q 10 6 2
♦ A
♣ 7 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♣ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠. Every bridge club has its Hapless Harry. Harry would give anything in the world to be a great bridge player. He subscribes to every bridge magazine, buys every new book on the game the moment it hits the shelves, but nothing helps. If anything, his game seems to get worse as the years roll by.

When Harry picked up this hand in a rubber bridge game, he knew his moment had arrived. Almost every book on play and defense Harry pos-

sessed carried the famous hand defended by his idol, the late Howard Schenken. Against a spade contract, Schenken had led the nine of trumps from just such a holding as Harry's. Declarer, who held A Q 8 x x in hand opposite J x x in dummy, lost a trump trick by covering with dummy's jack to protect against a possible K 10 x with East, and the contract was no longer makeable.

Without further ado, Harry shot out the nine of spades. He was rather disappointed when declarer played low from dummy and won the trick with the jack. Next, South cashed the ace of spades, fetching the king from East. After playing off the ace of diamonds, declarer crossed to the queen of spades, in the process drawing Harry's last trump, discarded two clubs on the king and queen of diamonds, then led the jack of hearts. With the king outside, declarer brought in the whole suit and scored 13 tricks. What was it? Alexander Pope wrote about a little learning? Had Harry simply led from one of his four-card suits, declarer would probably have gone down unless the defense offered some aid. If South tries to get to dummy by leading a low trump to the queen, the defenders can lock declarer in hand and eventually will collect two club tricks and one in each major.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 5/8/1991	Tokyo Close Date: 6/8/1991
Sterling Pound	1.7108	1.7115
Deutsche Mark	1.7175	1.7153
Swiss Franc	1.4965	1.4955
French Franc	5.8435	5.8390**
Japanese Yen	136.65	136.65
European Currency Unit	1.1945	1.1949**

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.75	6.00	6.25
Sterling Pound	10.81	10.75	10.62	10.56
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.12	9.37	9.43
Swiss Franc	7.62	7.68	7.75	7.62
French Franc	9.43	9.43	9.62	9.56
Japanese Yen	7.37	7.40	7.12	6.87
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.81	9.93	10.00

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	357.50	6.95	Silver	3.95	.095

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1737	1.1796
Deutsche Mark	.3996	.4016
Swiss Franc	.4588	.4611
French Franc	.1175	.1181
Japanese Yen*	.5011	.5036
Dutch Guilder	.3545	.3563
Swedish Krona	.1100	.1106
Italian Lira*	.0534	.0537
Belgian Franc	.01934	.01944

* Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7830	1.7920
Lebanese Lira*	.0750	.0770
Saudi Riyal	.1827	.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1859	.1865
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7450	1.7550
UAE Dirham	.1859	.1865
Greek Drachma*	.3400	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4300	1.4600

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	4/8/1991	Close	5/8/1991	Close
All-Share	109.47		109.91	
Banking Sector	104.27		104.49	
Insurance Sector	119.32		119.24	
Industry Sector	114.24		115.21	
Services Sector	127.88		127.36	

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7155/65	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1481/86	Canadian dollar
	1.7085/95	Deutsche marks
	1.9270/80	Dutch guilders
	1.4902/09	Swiss francs
	35.18/22	Belgian francs
	5.8120/70	French francs
	1279/1280	Italian lire
	136.35/45	Japanese yen
	6.2025/75	Swedish crowns
	6.6750/6800	Norwegian crowns
	6.6175/25	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	357.10/357.60	U.S. dollars

Returnees from Iraq, Kuwait to receive \$2,500 compensation

GENEVA (R) — Workers who had to leave Kuwait or Iraq because of the Gulf crisis will be eligible for a minimum compensation payment from Iraq of \$2,500, a Belgian diplomat told a news conference Monday.

Belgian Ambassador Philippe Berg, chairman of the governing council of the U.N. Compensation Commission, said the council had decided to give priority to dealing with small claims, particularly from labourers who lost everything.

The commission, set up expressly to deal with losses resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait a year ago, finished its first session Friday. It comprises representatives of the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Berg said he could not estimate how high the total amount of claims by people and governments would eventually be.

"But it will be Himalayan," he told Reuters.

An estimated one million non-Iraqis fled Kuwait and Iraq after the occupation, including

thousands of Indians, Pakistanis, Filipinos, Sri Lankans, Egyptians, Thais and many highly-paid Westerners.

A document adopted by the commission stipulated that anyone who left between Aug. 2, 1990, when Iraq invaded, and March 2, 1991, the day before Iraq agreed to ceasefire terms laid down by the anti-Iraq coalition, would be eligible for at least \$2,500 per person up to \$5,000 per family.

"The commission will give expedited priority consideration to claims for (overall) losses up to \$100,000 per person," the document stated. Claims can be submitted for anything above \$100,000 at a later time.

Only a minimum amount of evidence of loss will be required, and even less proof for claims under \$20,000.

Claimants only have to document the fact and date of their departure. Higher claims could be submitted with proof but not if a claim for the 2,500 had already been submitted.

A local source said the lump-

sum measure was an effort to reduce the tremendous paperwork involved in handling claims for potentially hundreds of thousands of people and to alleviate the problems of those who were not able to get proof of losses.

In the headlong rush to escape, many workers had to leave everything, including money in the bank and precious belongings such as radios that they had scrimped to buy.

The council wanted to clear the way for these workers to get relatively early reimbursement for their losses.

The forms for making claims will not be available for some time. The commission's newly formed secretariat has to draw up easily understandable forms which the governing council will then have to approve.

Mr. Berg said it was not clear when these would be available.

Governments will then have to distribute and collect the forms and apply for the money on behalf of their citizens and, if they choose, their residents.

Pan Am to lay off 5,000 employees

NEW YORK (AP) — Pan Am Corp. has announced heavy layoffs and quarterly operating losses because of the sickly airline's precarious financial condition.

It said it would furlough 5,000 employees, nearly a quarter of the work force, in a seasonal shrinkage that is worse than usual.

The struggling airline, in bankruptcy court since January, also announced it earned \$99.9 million in the April-June quarter, but only because it sold United Airlines routes into London's Heathrow Airport that were once the heart of Pan Am's trans-Atlantic operations.

United Airlines bought the London routes for \$260 million. The infusion of cash masked Pan Am's operating loss of \$125.3 million for the quarter.

Pan Am once was the premier U.S. international airline and its travails have come to symbolize the financial plight of the U.S. airline industry, hurt by the recession and a decline in riders. Pan Am has been trying to sell pieces of itself in an orderly fashion to satisfy creditor claims.

Pan Am Chairman Thomas Plaskett wrote Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner to say Pan Am has been considering all offers for its assets in good faith. Mr. Skinner had written to Mr. Plaskett Wednesday to say Pan Am and its creditors should "ensure that they have considered in

good faith all reasonable offers for the assets in question."

It was unclear what motivated Mr. Skinner to write Pan Am.

Pan Am included the announcement of the layoffs at the bottom of an earnings statement. Its payroll includes roughly 22,000 workers.

"It's a sad day in Pan Am's history," said George Miranda, Pan Am's chief financial officer. "It's not a pretty sight when we're laying off those kinds of numbers. It's a catastrophe. It's a disaster."

Pan Am said its quarterly earnings of \$99.9 million compared with a loss of \$49 million for the same period in 1990. Revenues were down 29.3 per cent, from \$1.02 billion in the 1990 quarter to \$721.2 million in the 1991 quarter.

"The results reflect the steep recessionary conditions in the United States and the lingering effects of the Gulf war, which have curtailed both leisure and business air travel demand," Mr. Plaskett said in the earnings statement. "The softness in demand prompted excessive fare discounting during this period, which greatly eroded yield."

For the first six months of the year, the corporation lost \$149.2 million, vs. a loss of \$239.7 million for the same period a year earlier. Revenues dipped 24.4 per cent, from \$1.87 billion to \$1.41 billion, for the six-month periods.

Qatar starts production of gas from North Field

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Qatar's vast North Field gas reservoir began production Saturday after months of delay and is expected to reach a target rate of 800 million cubic feet per day by the end of September, Qatari oil officials said.

Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) said in a statement well No. 1 in the North Field — the world's biggest single gas reserve — began production Saturday and offshore facilities were being tested.

A QGPC spokesman said by telephone all 16 wells drilled for the first stage of the field's development were expected to be operating by the end of September. Inauguration of the multi-million dollar project, delayed by the Gulf crisis and technical problems, would take place then, he said.

"Stage one of the project was mechanically completed at the end of 1990 but its start-up was postponed. The inauguration will take place in September," the spokesman said.

Gulf oil executives said production was delayed after some of the wells developed leaks in January. Construction of facilities for the first stage, initially estimated at a cost of \$1.3 billion, began in mid-1988.

The natural gas reservoir has an estimated 380 trillion cubic feet of reserves.

Egypt looks to Libya for badly needed jobs, markets

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak is looking to Egypt's oil-rich neighbour Libya for badly needed jobs and markets to help replace those lost in Iraq and Kuwait because of the Gulf crisis.

His unexpected visit to Libya this week caps a flurry of lower level visits in recent months, resulting in joint ventures in electricity, transport, fighting and ship repairs worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

And while fundamental political differences disrupted economic links in the past, officials and Western economists predict that trade relations can now only keep growing.

"The Egyptians seem to be tying the Libyans in on the ground so that it will be very difficult for them to cut links in the future," said one Cairo-based economist.

The Tripoli government's Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company has agreed to invest up to \$200 million in Egypt.

But what Egypt is most hungry for are jobs for the hundreds of thousands of workers who left the Gulf after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last year.

As a reward for its strong stance in the U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraq out of Kuwait at the end of February, Western and Arab creditors forgave nearly half of Cairo's pre-war foreign debt of \$50 billion.

But Egypt lost a vital source of foreign currency and employment

when the bulk of its expatriate community returned to a country where jobs are scarce and, when found, poorly paid.

Almost all of the more than a million Egyptians who were working in Iraq last August have returned home.

Fewer than 70,000 of the more than 185,000 Egyptians who worked in Kuwait before the invasion remain in the emirate, according to official estimates.

The billion dollars a year they sent home has been lost, and Egypt's chronic balance of payments deficit widened further.

So Libya — a fertile ground for Egyptian guest workers in the past — has again become an economic beacon of hope, despite basic differences between Cairo's pro-Western pragmatism and Tripoli's often strident Arab nationalism.

"What is happening between Libya and Egypt is unique in the Arab World," said a foreign ministry official. "We had — and still have — political disagreements with Libya, but we will not allow this to affect our practical relations."

Precise figures are not available but economists estimate thousands of Egyptians have gone to work in Libya this year.

Every day at Cairo's main terminal, workers crowd onto buses for the 15-hour trip to Tripoli. Those coming the other way are mainly Libyan tourists.

About 300,000 Egyptians

worked in Libya in the mid-1970s, just after the oil boom, but most were expelled after a brief border war between the countries in 1977. In 1985 up to 100,000 Egyptians were thrown out after another border skirmish.

But diplomats and economists believe Libya is now reconsidering its international isolation and would be reluctant to jeopardise improving relations with Egypt, an important conduit to the West.

"Libya has been moving down the road to predictability," said Adel Beshai, an economics professor at the American University in Cairo. "There won't be another round of expulsions over some political wrangle — Libya just can't afford it," he added.

Although bilateral trade currently stands at only \$18 million a year, economists say Egypt is also looking to its neighbour as a potential export market, particularly for aluminium and textiles.

Smuggling from Egypt to Libya across the desert border has been rife ever since it was reopened in June 1989. Electronic goods such as televisions cost about half as much in Cairo as they do in Tripoli.

But if Libya is becoming a more reliable trade partner, there is still more than a hint of grandiose idealism in its economic projects. One calls for setting a million Egyptians in Saharan oases, and setting up agriculture and industry to employ them.

Sofia cracks down on food price surge

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria, seeking to halt a fresh surge in food costs, Monday recommended maximum retail prices coupled with a promise of tax breaks and subsidies for suppliers who honoured the new limits.

Government officials said the scheme was among price stabilisation measures in a decree adopted by the caretaker coalition cabinet after bread and meat producers announced price rises of up to 50 per cent last Friday.

The decree also banned the export of wheat and maize until the next harvest and said the state would guarantee the sale of bread wheat through imports if necessary, the officials said.

It ordered the agriculture ministry to draft proposals by Aug. 15 for a national meat and grain exchange and made provisions for a "grain fund" to give the state control of grain production and consumption.

Friday's rises angered consumers, who are already struggling after earlier price liberalisation measures in February quadrupled the cost of living.

Kuwait says talks on loans going well

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Monday talks on raising billions of dollars on world capital markets had produced excellent results and the emirate would receive its first loan within two months.

Central bank governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Saud Al Sabah said rapid economic recovery coupled with Kuwait's massive overseas assets had enhanced its bargaining hand with foreign banks.

"We have received excellent terms and are pleased to be given favourable treatment. Definitely within two months we will start to borrow," he said in an interview. "I rather wish to have long term borrowing than short term. It's more comfortable for us to really have long term borrowing," he pointed out.

He said the emirate had spent \$22.5 billion in the 11 months since the invasion, without resorting to liquidating its foreign assets.

The level of borrowing — to finance reconstruction and pay for the U.S.-led alliance would be less than \$23 billion, he said.

"At present I am not fully aware about the volume we need to borrow. We are still calculating our requirements for the next two years," Sheikh Salem said.

He refused to name the banks involved in raising the loans. "It's a rather sensitive issue."

"I would wish to have a reputable bank that can handle this issue on behalf of the government, an international bank that can provide us with its views, recommendations... and how much that bank arrange in coordination with other banks," he noted.

Most of the money spent during the past 11 months had been paid to members of the U.S.-led alliance.

"We have not touched our major investments in terms of securities or direct participation. We just used our cash funds," he asserted.

Kuwait's Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah has put a ceiling on public borrowing to \$33 billion.

Sheikh Salem said Kuwait's oil exports would top 500,000 barrels per day (p/d) by the beginning of next year.

Kuwait exported its first post-war shipment of two million barrels at the end of July.

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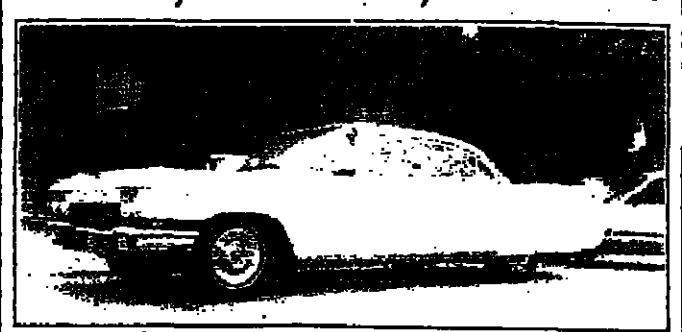
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Yugoslav fragile truce holds

Opposition activist gunned down in Belgrade

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia's warring Serb and Croat forces kept a fragile ceasefire after weeks of violence while the European Community (EC) pondered a new diplomatic move to avert civil war.

Mortar fire was reported near the Croatian town of Petrinja Monday. But no new casualties were reported to add to the toll of some 300 killed in a month of sectarian violence.

Three EC foreign ministers returned home Sunday acknowledging failure of their latest mission to bring peace to the multi-ethnic Balkan federation.

The EC's 12 foreign ministers met in the Hague Tuesday to consider a new strategy to handle the Yugoslav crisis — possibly involving economic sanctions against the Republic of Serbia.

Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic, has been widely blamed for torpedoing the EC mission.

But a truce ordered by the Yugoslav presidency held Monday although no effort was being made to enforce it.

Serbian guerrillas who seized

control of the Krajina region of southern Croatia last August and set up their own government said Monday they would obey the ceasefire.

The region is already relatively quiet as its residents have turned it into a virtual fortress and Croatian patrols do not dare venture into the area.

But guerrillas say the fighting is far from over and predominantly Serbian-populated areas of Croatia will never recognise rule from Zagreb again.

Journalists travelling in Slavonia region in eastern Croatia — scene of the worst fighting — were told by guerrilla commanders that remaining towns in the area would soon be taken by Serb fighters.

One leader said that the town of Vukovar, on the banks of the Danube, was one possible target as it would lengthen a strip of territory already controlled by the Serbs along the river.

Some Serbs said that a siege of the area's main city, Osijek, was also possible.

Croatia and European leaders

blamed Serbia and its allies for the failure of the EC mission because they failed to attend a joint meeting of EC ministers and the collective presidency to agree ceasefire terms and monitoring by EC observers.

And Germany suggested economic sanctions against Serbia could be in the offing.

"If the Serbian leadership does not compromise, the EC will have to draw conclusions," Norbert Schaefer, a spokesman for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said. "These could include economic sanctions."

Mr. Schaefer said Serbia was violating European conventions by seeking to redraw Yugoslavia's internal boundaries by force, taking control of Croatian territory controlled by Serbs.

"If Serbia does not stop this and continues to reject a ceasefire, the EC will also have to seriously consider recognising Slovenia and Croatia," he added.

Meanwhile a Serbian opposition figure Monday accused top officials in the republic of orga-

nising the murder of a paramilitary activist, widening a split in Serbian nationalist ranks as open war loomed with Croatia.

Vuk Draskovic, charismatic head of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), said the killing in Belgrade of the Serbian National Guardsman Sunday night was "a political murder with the state behind it, including the very top officials."

His charges, made at a tense news conference in Belgrade, were clearly levelled at officials loyal to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Mr. Draskovic's arch-rival.

Mr. Draskovic, a straggly-haired, bearded nationalist who led big anti-Communist demonstrations in Belgrade last March, pledged to organise even bigger street protests next October if authorities did not identify the killers.

Branislav Matic-Beli, a member of the Serbian National Guard to which the SPO has given its blessing, was riddled with automatic bullets outside his home by two gunmen.

India says Afghans helping Kashmiri militants

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian security forces are searching for Afghan Mujahideen they believe have entered Indian-ruled Kashmir to help Muslim militants there, senior officials said Tuesday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said they had reliable reports that Afghan Mujahideen, veterans of the decade-old war against the Moscow-backed government in Kabul, had taken part in recent militant operations.

Spokesman for leading Kashmiri militant groups denied Afghan involvement in the insurgency which police say has resulted in some 3,600 deaths since it erupted in January, 1990.

But witnesses in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-ruled Kashmir, and other major towns of the Kashmir Valley said security forces were stopping and questioning anyone resembling an Afghan.

Life in Kashmir Valley towns came to a virtual standstill Tuesday in response to a general strike called by the Jamhu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) to mark the first anniversary of the arrest of its military commander.

Yaseen Malik, 26, was caught along with other senior JKLF men in a raid on a house on the outskirts of Srinagar. He has been detained without trial under anti-terrorist laws ever since.

All shops were closed and only security force vehicles were seen on the roads of Srinagar.

The JKLF is the leading militant group fighting for a reunited, independent and secular Kashmir. Other fundamentalist groups are fighting for a merger with Pakistan, which rules one-third of the region.

India accuses Islamabad of arming, training and guiding the Kashmiri rebels. Pakistan denies the charge, saying it gives only moral and diplomatic support.

The JKLF has been complaining for months that Pakistan is helping only the fundamentalists, especially the Hezb-Ul-Mujahideen, the leading fundamentalist group.

Bitterness between the two groups erupted into gunfights on the streets of Srinagar in April and spokesmen said there were more clashes and some kidnappings last week.

Mandela predicts victory in battle against racism

BRASILIA (R) — Anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela Monday predicted "final victory" in his lifelong battle against racism in South Africa as he prepared to return home after a gruelling Latin American and Caribbean tour.

"I am going back full of hope and convinced of final victory," said Mr. Mandela, 73, after receiving one of Brazil's highest honours from President Fernando Collor de Mello.

Mr. Mandela, president of the African National Congress (ANC), was in the capital, Brasilia, on the penultimate day of a six-day visit to Brazil. He has also visited Cuba, Jamaica, Venezuela and Mexico.

Mr. Collor de Mello hailed Mr. Mandela as "one of the highest expressions of human courage and perseverance of our time" before presenting him with the Order of Rio Branco, normally reserved for heads of state.

In an improvised speech after meeting Mr. Collor de Mello, Mr. Mandela described Brazil as a great ally in the cause against racism. "The voice of the Brazilian people always encouraged us in our fight against apartheid, crossing even the prison walls," he said in a reference to the 27 years he spent in South African jails. Mr. Mandela also spoke of wider aims.

"We are fighting for justice and human dignity not just in our country but in the whole world," he said. Mr. Collor de Mello in turn pledged Brazil's "permanent and genuine" solidarity with the people of South Africa.

Race is a sensitive issue in Brazil, where blacks and Mulattoes, or people of mixed race, make up 45 per cent of the 150 million population. The country's image abroad of peaceful racial harmony belies some harsh truths at home.

Brazil was one of the last countries to outlaw slavery — final abolition came only in 1888 — and although the constitution preaches equality, racism is still rife.

The country has no black cabinet ministers and only one black state governor out of 27. Senior Brazilian businessmen, diplomats and lawyers are almost exclusively white.

Brazil to keep sanctions
Mandela said that Brazil would maintain diplomatic and commercial sanctions against South Africa to protest against its racist policies.

At a news conference, Mandela said that President Collor de Mello promised the six-year-old sanctions would continue despite moves by South African President F.W. de Klerk to dismantle the apartheid system of racial segregation.

"Before I even brought up the subject, President Collor guaranteed that Brazil would maintain sanctions against South Africa," Mr. Mandela said.

In 1985, Brazil suspended the sale of weapons and oil to Pretoria, and imposed restrictions on cultural and sports exchanges. Brasilia has only limited diplomatic relations with South Africa and is represented in Pretoria by a charge d'affaires rather than a full ambassador.

In a separate development, South African Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi rejected Tuesday charges that a scandal over secret payments to his Inkatha movement had destroyed his credibility, describing the sums involved as piffling.

Speaking during a visit to Hong Kong, Dr. Buthelezi accused his critics of double standards, saying the rival African National Congress (ANC) had also received money from the South African government as well as from abroad, including the Soviet KGB secret police, to finance terrorism.

"The piffling sum of (250,000 rand) was paid to one of my assistants without my knowledge and we have returned that money," he told RTHK Radio.

"The ANC gets large sums from the KGB, from the Scandinavian countries (and) from all over the world for terrorist purposes. It amazes me that the whole world should be shaken just by the 250,000 rand."

The white government of President F.W. de Klerk last month admitted paying 250,000 rand (\$90,000) to the conservative Inkatha Freedom Party and regular payments totalling 1.5 million rand (\$500,000) to its allied trade union over four years.

Asked about media comment that the affair had destroyed his credibility, he said: "These things, like beauty, are normally in the eye of the beholder. Whoever wrote that is not really one of the people who elected me."

Dr. Buthelezi, described by analysts as the whites' favourite black for his conservative politics, said the government had paid the ANC four million rand (\$1.3 million) to house ANC exiles returning to South Africa.

Rebels flee Sri Lankan battlefield

COLOMBO (R) — Hundreds of Tamil rebels have been seen fleeing the battlefield where they suffered their biggest defeat in eight years, a Sri Lankan military spokesman said Tuesday.

"The fighting is over. All the terrorists can do now is to resort to guerrilla tactics," the spokesman said.

He said troops were slowly clearing mines and other explosives from the perimeter of the Elephant Pass army camp, relieved Saturday after being under siege since July 10.

"Progress is slow because the

terrain is difficult and vehicles get bogged down," he said.

A relief column entered the camp Saturday after fierce fighting with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a separatist guerrilla group.

The relief force landed on a beach nine kilometres from the beleaguered camp and took 21 days to reach it.

Eight hundred troops had been pinned down inside the camp, which controls the pass linking the Jaffna peninsula, a rebel stronghold, with the rest of Sri Lanka.

The Tigers, who want to set up a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, lost about 2,100 guerrillas in the battle, according to government figures.

More than 150 government soldiers were also killed.

Military reports of the fighting and casualty figures could not be verified by independent or rebel sources.

About 8,000 troops and 5,000 Tigers took part in the battle, which the government says was the biggest since the rebels began their separatist campaign eight years ago.

Italians to vote in general elections next May

ROME (R) — Italy's fragile government has won a nine-month reprieve when the country's squabbling coalition parties agreed to hold general elections next May, government sources said.

"We will be voting on the first Sunday in May," a senior official said after a four-hour meeting between Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and leaders of the four ruling parties, Christian Democrats, Socialists, Liberals and Social-Democrats.

The announcement dampened speculation that Mr. Andreotti's increasingly restless Socialist partners would bring down Italy's 50th post-war government this summer and force early general elections in the autumn.

In the last general elections in June 1987, the Christian Democrats won 34.3 per cent of the votes followed by the Communists with 26.6 per cent. The Socialists won 14.3 per cent.

Major political changes have taken place since then. The Communists have split after the party's 1991 decision to change its name.

The meeting hammered out a plan of action for the government's remaining months in office. The final communiqué made it clear Mr. Andreotti's Christian Democrats had made major concessions to retain the Socialists' support.

Mr. Andreotti agreed to postpone final cabinet approval of a plan to overhaul Italy's costly pension system while the Christian Democratic Party downgraded its plans for electoral reform.

Socialist leader Bettino Craxi had vetoed both projects. In exchange, Mr. Craxi dropped demands for a major agreement on how to revise Italy's 1947 constitution.

The communiqué merely said the government would set up a round table to discuss the issue — a compromise that falls far short of what both the Socialists and President Francesco Cossiga had been demanding.

U.N. to send mission to monitor truce in Cambodia

BANGKOK (AP) — The United Nations will send a team to Cambodia to determine how to monitor agreements for a truce and a halt to receiving foreign arms supplies, the Khmer Rouge guerrilla radio said Tuesday.

The team sent by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will visit Cambodia on Aug. 17 to Sept. 3, said the broadcast, monitored in Bangkok.

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan was informed of the decision in a telegram received Sunday from Rafeuddin Ahnoud, the U.N. chief's special envoy on the Cambodian issue, it said.

The broadcast said the Khmer Rouge hoped the first U.N. monitoring team would be sent to Cambodia when the survey mission finished its work, and would be the start of a U.N. transitional authority in Cambodia.

U.N. monitoring would help end the fighting and speed up efforts for a political settlement of the war, it said.

"Without U.N. supervision, the war in Cambodia will never end," because Vietnamese troops are still fighting there despite Hanoi's claim to have withdrawn, the broadcast said.

The Khmer Rouge dominates a guerrilla coalition that also includes the forces of Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Kaifu rules out military role on Hiroshima anniversary

HIROSHIMA, Japan (R) — Japan's prime minister, in a solemn ceremony Tuesday marking Hiroshima's devastation by an atomic bomb in 1945, vowed the country would never seek to rebuild the military power that led it to war 50 years ago.

"As the world's only A-bombed country, Japan is firmly determined never again to repeat the tragedy of war and, in particular, never to return to the state where nuclear weapons would be used against it," Premier Toshiki Kaifu said in an address at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park.

Commemorations this year fall just months before the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbour, Japan's sudden attack on the U.S. naval base in December 1941 which brought both nations into World War II.

They also coincide with government plans to contribute to international peacekeeping efforts by sending troops overseas for the first time since 1945 — a development viewed with caution by many Asians who still resent Japan's expansionism up to and during the Pacific war.

About 55,000 people, many dressed in black, queued under a scorching sun for the annual ritual of mourning, with its tolling bells, 1,500 fluttering doves and impassioned appeals for world peace.

The names of almost 4,800 survivors who died in the past 12 months from the effects of radiation were added to the memorial honouring the A-bomb victims.

A minute of silent prayer was conducted at 8.15 a.m. (2315 GMT), the precise time at which a U.S.-B-29 dropped the world's first atomic bomb.

The blast flattened the western part of the city and killed 140,000 people, some dying outright, others lingering for weeks with burns and radiation injuries.

An estimated 70,000 died after a second bomb fell three days later on Nagasaki, another port city in southern Japan.

Kaifu and other leaders attending the memorial rites praised the U.S.-Soviet accord to reduce their respective arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons.

"Despite the Gulf crisis, we are approaching the realisation of world peace through dialogue

and adjustment, illustrated by the signing in late July of the U.S.-Soviet Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty," Mr. Kaifu said.

He said his government would help the process by pressing the United Nations to monitor the transfer and trade of weapons.

Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka, in his speech, apologised for Japan's military exploits in Asia recalled the Pearl Harbour attack.

"Japan inflicted great suffering and despair on the peoples of Asia and the Pacific during its reign of colonial domination and war. There can be no excuses for these actions," he said.

Hiroshima's city assembly last week passed a resolution calling on the government to acknowledge clearly that Japan was responsible for starting the war in Asia and the Pacific.

Peace activists have long complained that the government has ducked the question of Japanese responsibility for initiating the conflict.

Even now school history textbooks, censored by the Education Ministry, carry only brief, generalised accounts of Japan's

military campaigns in Asia and the A-bombing of the two Japanese cities.

"Kaifu is going around these days offering words of contrition for what happened in the war, but he's never apologised in clear terms," said Yukio Yokohara, head of the Hiroshima Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

"If Japan was really sorry, it would consult its Asian neighbours before preparing to send troops overseas."

Mr. Kaifu told a new conference later Tuesday he hoped to pass legislation in the current session of parliament to allow a Japanese contingent to assist future U.N. peacekeeping missions.

"We have to find a way of contributing to international peace ... and hope to draw up a structure for peacekeeping activities," he said.

While the official memorial ceremony lasted only 50 minutes, thousands of A-bomb survivors, relatives of the dead and visitors from over two dozen countries continued to line up for hours to place flowers in front of the cen-



Toshiki Kaifu
taph in the middle of the Peace Park.

Others mingled around the burned-out A-bomb dome, formerly the Hiroshima Industrial Hall which was the only structure left standing in the city centre. Hiroshima is now a gleaming metropolis with lush green parks.

"It's tragic that so lives were lost in an instant," said one A-bomb survivor at the ceremony. "We must keep the memory alive to prevent a similar tragedy."

Pol Pot headed Khmer rouge at talks — report

NEW YORK (R) — Ex-Khmer Rouge Premier Pol Pot emerged from the shadows in recent peace talks among Cambodia's four warring groups, a newspaper has reported.

The New York-based Asian Wall Street Journal Weekly said Pol Pot secretly checked into the Royal Cliff Hotel in the Thai resort of Pattaya where the talks were held on June 24-26.

Widely blamed for the deaths of more than one million Cambodians during his ultra-revolutionary rule from 1975 to 1978, Pol Pot is officially said to have given up political power in December 1979, a year after Vietnam ousted his government.

Citing intelligence reports from Thailand, the Asian Wall Street Journal Weekly said Pol Pot apparently went to Pattaya to oversee the Khmer Rouge bargaining position during a critical phase of all-party negotiations.

"In the past, the Khmer Rouge negotiators — lacking full authority — have been inflexible, invariably sticking to their instructions," said the Washington-based article by Mayan Chanda, the weekly's editor.

"The lack of a secure communication link with their boss in the Thai-Cambodian border area is believed to have been an important reason for this sterile negotiating approach."

Manila charges Imelda Marcos with corruption

MANILA (R) — Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos used threats and intimidation to force a Philippine businessman to sell them a piece of prime land where the late dictator thought World War II treasure was buried, according to corruption charges filed Tuesday.

The charges are the latest the government has brought against the former first lady, who last week was given permission to return to the Philippines so she could face trial.

Government lawyers allege that Mrs. Marcos forced businessman Francisco Ortigas to sell prime land to her husband in 1968.

They also accuse her of helping her husband coerce Mr. Ortigas into donating a second piece of land to the couple as a gift in 1974.

In a signed statement, Mr. Ortigas said he balked at selling the first piece of land, in what is now a flourishing Manila commercial area, at a "scandalously low price."

Mr. Marcos replied: "There are many ways to skin a cat," according to the statement, and went on to threaten Mr. Ortigas's company.

Mr. Marcos made the threats in Imelda's presence during a meeting at the presidential palace, Mr. Ortigas said.

Mr. Ortigas said Mr. Marcos's military chief, General Fabian Ver, told him the president believed the so-called Yamashita treasure was buried in the area.

Legend says the treasure included gold and jewellery which General Tomoyuki Yamashita of the imperial army buried in different parts of the Philippines as Japanese occupation forces withdrew in the final days of World War II.

Estimates of its value exceed \$20 billion.

The charges, filed with the government ombudsman, were the second and third brought against Imelda since President Corason Aquino lifted the ban on her return.

Last Wednesday, the govern-

ment filed tax evasion charges against her and her three children.

The ombudsman will investigate the allegations to see if there is enough evidence to warrant a trial.

The Marcoses, who ruled for 20 years, fled to Hawaii in 1986 after a popular revolt that installed Aquino in power. Ferdinand Marcos died there in 1989.

The dictator's remains are currently in a refrigerated crypt because Mrs. Marcos insists he should be buried in the Philippines.

Mrs. Aquino has said she will not allow his remains back in the country immediately but that she might eventually do so.

Mr. Ortigas said Mrs. Marcos first suggested he sell the land during a helicopter ride to survey the property. She said that "what President Marcos wants is merely a drop in the bucket."

When he refused, Mrs. Marcos took him to the presidential palace to meet the president but Mr. Ortigas said he still declined to sell.

Mr. Marcos told him he wanted the land as the site for a house and a museum to display his memorabilia.

Mr. Ortigas quoted Mr. Marcos as telling in another meeting that "the office of the president has vast powers and could make things difficult for your partners and your company."

Mr. Marcos allegedly added: "Why don't you and partners consider your company's welfare and not expose ... yourselves to all kinds of possible investigations ... that could cripple its operations."

Intimidated, he eventually sold the 16 hectare (40 acre) site to a Marcos-linked development company at 40 pesos (about \$20 at 1968 exchange rates) per square metre.

Tuesday's charges were filed by Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, who told reporters he would file more charges against the Marcos family in the next eight weeks, at the rate of two cases a week.

COLUMN

Dutch queen breaks leg during vacation

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Queen Beatrix has turned from her summer home in northern Italy with a broken leg, the government said. Queen Beatrix, 53, tripped while walking and fractured her right leg during the latter part of a one-week stay at her summer residence in the Italian Alps, said a spokesman for the government information service. Mr. Beatrix did not know any more details of the accident or where it occurred, but said the queen had received medical attention immediately after breaking her leg — the long, thin bone that runs from knee to ankle. Queen Beatrix was in Italy with her son Willem-Alexander, Johan Friso and Constantijn, who returned to Holland several days after the accident. The queen, who has a history of suffering depression, was hospitalised on July 1 after depression-related complaints. The spokeswoman said the queen was resting at the time but would have follow-up treatment from a Dutch physician.

London's red double-decker bus maybe retired

LONDON (AP) — The red double-decker bus, on which the city's tourists ride to see the sights, could soon be rolling off into the English sunset. As part of a programme to improve Britain's public services, Prime Minister John Major has pledged to deregulate London's buses and sell the system to private owners. "Every company will choose its own livery to run under," he said. "The red bus is probably already gone," said David Hales, a press officer for London Regional Transport. Meanwhile, the European Community (EC) is considering uniform headroom standards for newly manufactured buses. Such a rule, according to Stephen Morris, editor of the monthly magazine buses, "will spell the end of double-deckers."

Woman pregnant with own grandchildren

NEW YORK (AP) — A 42-year-old woman is six months pregnant with her own grandchildren after agreeing to serve as a surrogate mother for her daughter, who cannot bear children. The woman from the midwestern state of South Dakota will be the first in the United States to bear her own grandchildren, according to medical ethicists. A South African woman believed her daughter's triplets in 1987. Ethicists said they recognised the South Dakota woman's devotion to her daughter, but not all of them agreed that such arrangements should be encouraged. "When you start splitting up the components of motherhood which are usually tightly bound — social, gestational, genetic — then we get confused about which moral and social values go with which aspects of motherhood," said James Nelson of the Hastings Center, a medical-ethics research centre in Briarcliff Manor, New York. The woman, Ariette Schwitter of Aberdeen, was implanted early this year with eggs that had been removed from her daughter and fertilised with her daughter's husband's sperm. The process, known as in-vitro fertilisation, is now rather common, but its use with a surrogate mother is still uncommon. Some two dozen women have agreed to serve as surrogate mothers for their sisters, said Arthur Caplan, director of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Minnesota. The fertilisation and implantation of the eggs was done early this year by Dr. William Phillips at the University of Minnesota. Doctors later determined that Ms. Schwitter is carrying twins.

Stick-up kids on bikes flee with \$500

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — Two boys aged about 13 ran up a lottery agency at gunpoint and escaped on bicycles with about \$500 dollars (\$500) in cash and a stack of lottery tickets, the New Zealand Herald has reported. The police are saying the boys entered the shop in Auckland with T-shirts over their heads. One carried a pistol which police think was a fake. After forcing a woman attendant to the back of the store the pair rifled the cash register and grabbed a large box of tickets — which can fetch instant prizes of up to 25,000 dollars (14,500).